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INAUGURAL PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

OPENING OF THE NEW CITY HALL,

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN,

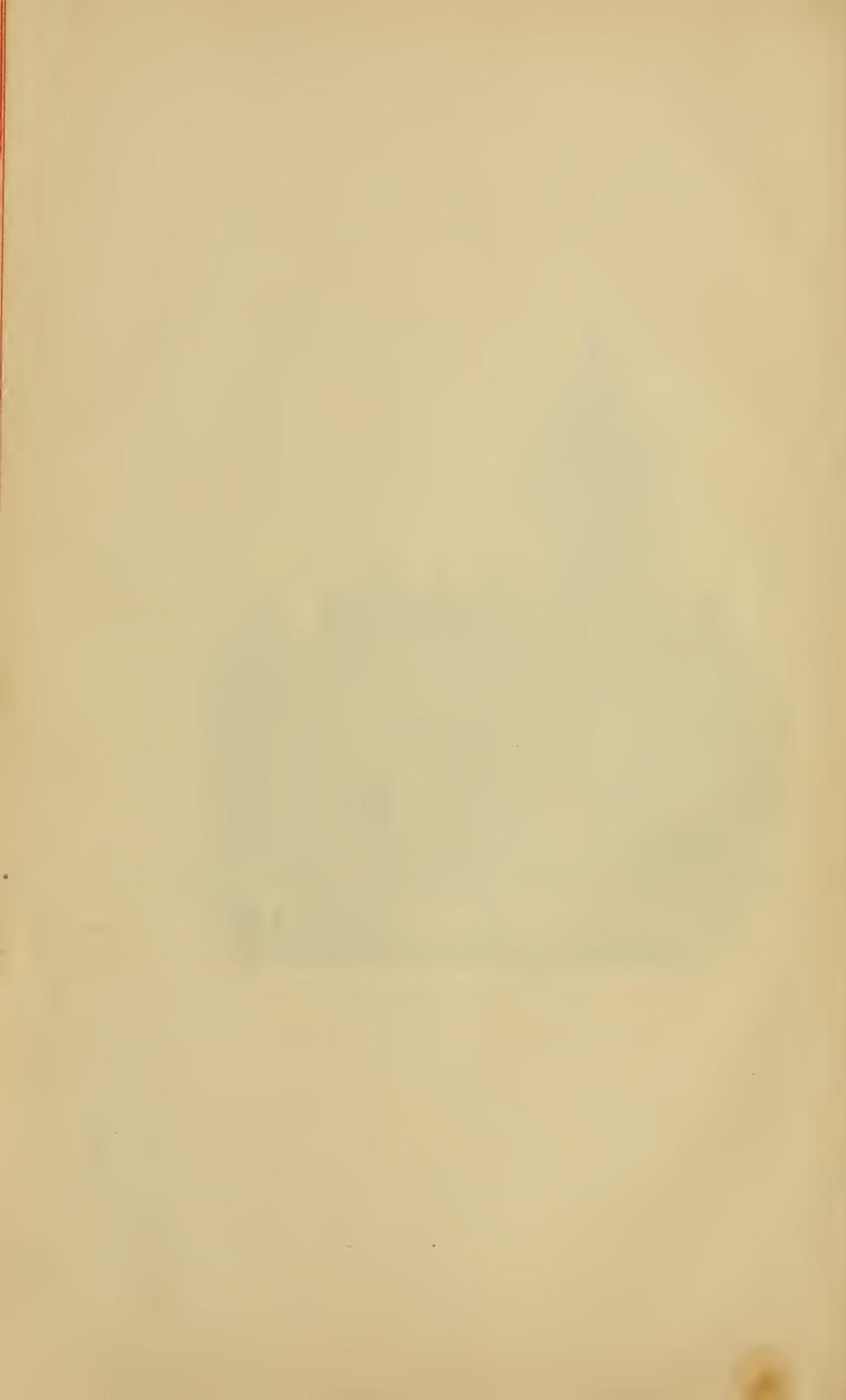
SEPTEMBER 26TH, 1888.

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CITY HALL, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.



City Government of Grand Rapids,

1888-89.

Executive Department.

MAYOR	-	-	-	-	I. M. WESTON.
City Clerk	-	-	-	-	JOHN J. BELKNAP.
Assistant City Clerk	-	-	-	-	FRED J. MORRISON.
City Treasurer	-	-	-	-	GEORGE R. PERRY.
Assistant City Treasurer	-	-	-	-	THOMAS NESTER.
City Comptroller	-	-	-	-	CHARLES N. ARMSTRONG.
City Marshal	-	-	-	-	CHARLES S. WILSON.
Assistant City Marshal	-	-	-	-	RICHARD ORPEN.
Director of the Poor	-	-	-	-	JOHN GRADY.
City Attorney	-	-	-	-	J. W. RANSOM.
Assistant City Attorney	-	-	-	-	W. W. TAYLOR.
City Physician	-	-	-	-	DR. C. M. DROSTE.
City Poundmaster	-	-	-	-	PATRICK McNAMARA.
Custodian of the City Hall	-	-	-	-	CHARLES T. BRENNER.

Legislative Department.

Common Council.

MAYOR - - - - - I. M. WESTON.

ALDERMEN.

First Ward—G. H. DEGRAAF, E. H. STEIN.

Second Ward—JOHN P. CREQUE, ROBERT SPROUL.

Third Ward—GEO. H. DAVIDSON, S. L. BALDWIN.

Fourth Ward—JACOB EISENHARDT, EDWARD O'DONNELL.

Fifth Ward—MAURICE SHANAHAN, FRED SAUNDERS.

Sixth Ward—ISAIAH STEWART, WM. H. STORES.

Seventh Ward—J. W. HAYWARD, FRANK L. RODGERS.

Eighth Ward—JOSEPH A. MCKEE, L. L. LAUNIERE.

President of the Council - - - - - MAURICE SHANAHAN.

Clerk - - - - - JOHN J. BELKNAP.

Assistant Clerk - - - - - FRED J. MORRISON.

Sergeant-at-Arms - - - - - CHARLES S. WILSON.

Judicial Department.

Judge of Superior Court - - - - - E. A. BURLINGAME.

Clerk of Superior Court - - - - - ANDREW FYFE.

Stenographer of Superior Court - - - - - CHARLES H. BENDER.

Judge of Police Court - - - - - JOHN T. HOLMES.

Assistant Judge of Police Court - - - - - W. O. WESTFALL.

Clerk of Police Court - - - - - A. B. TOZER.

Assistant Clerk of Police Court - - - - - T. J. MOSHER.

Justices of the Peace.

W. O. WESTFALL,

HARVEY P. YALE,

THOMAS WALSH.

Constables.

First Ward—J. C. PITKINS.

Fifth Ward—T. H. POND.

Second Ward—R. S. PARKMAN.

Sixth Ward—J. M. LINDSAY.

Third Ward—KLAAS VAN DER WAL.

Seventh Ward—C. MASTENBROOK.

Fourth Ward—M. B. PALMER.

Eighth Ward—DON W. WAYLAND.

Department of Public Works.

Board of Commissioners.

GEORGE G. BRIGGS	-	-	PRESIDENT.
JAMES N. DAVIS,	FREEMAN GODFREY,	W. R. SHELBY.	
JOHN S. FARR.	MAYOR I. M. WESTON.		
Clerk	-	-	FRED. A. TWAMLEY.
City Engineer	-	-	HOMER A. COLLAR.
Assistant City Engineer	-	-	GEORGE A. AMES.
General Inspector	-	-	JOHN S. FARR.
Engineer of Pumping Works	-	-	GEORGE E. KIRK.

Street Commissioners.

MARTIN VAN OEVEREN, WM. WALSH, WM. E. BLOXTON.

Police and Fire Department.

Board of Commissioners.

LEWIS H. WITHEY	-	-	PRESIDENT.
WM. H. POWERS,	L. E. HAWKINS,	JOHN E. MORE,	
	ADOLPH LEITELT.		
Secretary of the Board	-	-	B. F. McREYNOLDS.
Superintendent of Police	-	-	I. C. SMITH.
Captain of Police	-	-	JOHN JOHNSON.
Lieutenant of Police	-	-	WM. J. HURLEY.
Fire Marshal	-	-	HENRY LEMOIN.
Assistant Fire Marshal	-	-	S. W. BAXTER.
Second Assistant Fire Marshal	-	-	H. C. BETTINGHOUSE.
Matron of Police Station	-	-	MRS. FANNY GOULD.

Department of Education.

Board of Commissioners.

N. A. FLETCHER	-	-	-	PRESIDENT.
First Ward—E. H. STEIN, H. E. LOCHER.				
Second Ward—G. R. ALLEN, JOS. HOUSEMAN.				
Third Ward—H. H. DRURY, MRS. H. A. COOK.				
Fourth Ward—J. B. GRISWOLD, JAMES BLAIR.				
Fifth Ward—S. SULLIVAN, J. E. McBRIDE.				
Sixth Ward—H. J. FELKER, J. GELOCK.				
Seventh Ward—A. S. RICHARDS, C. E. KELLOGG.				
Eighth Ward—N. A. FLETCHER, R. W. MERRILL.				
Mayor I. M. WESTON.				
Secretary of the Board	-	-	-	E. H. STEIN.
Treasurer	-	-	-	F. A. HALL.
Superintendent of Schools	-	-	-	F. M. KENDALL.
Superintendent of Buildings	-	-	-	JAMES T. BARNABY.
Superintendent of Janitors	-	-	-	A. S. PAUL.
Librarian	-	-	-	HENRY J. CARR.
Truant Officer	-	-	-	FRANK FEE.

Department of Health.

Members of Board.

DR. THOMAS D. BRADFIELD	-	-	PRESIDENT.
JAMES D. ROBINSON.	MAJOR I. M. WESTON,	CHAS. W. CALKINS,	
	MAURICE SHANAHAN.		
Secretary of the Board	-	-	H. N. CARGILL.
Health Officer	-	-	DR. EDWARD WATSON.

Department of Taxes.

Board of Review and Equalization.

JAMES B. GULLIFORD - - - - - PRESIDENT.

C. L. SHATTUCK, - - - - - Secretary.
A. L. SKINNER.

Ward Assessors.

First Ward—JOHN STEKETEE.	Fifth Ward—SIMON SULLIVAN.
Second Ward—R. B. LOOMIS.	Sixth Ward—P. C. SHICKELL.
Third Ward—JOHN BENJAMIN.	Seventh Ward—H. O. SHERMERHORN.
Fourth Ward—W. D. FROST.	Eighth Ward—R. E. COURTNEY.

Ward Collectors.

First Ward—HENRY HOEKSEMA.	Fifth Ward—WM. A. DUNN.
Second Ward—D. J. DOORNINK.	Sixth Ward—JOHN HOGERHYDE.
Third Ward—BURT EMA.	Seventh Ward—HANS H. FITTING.
Fourth Ward—C. A. ROBINSON.	Eighth Ward—THOMAS O'KEEFE.

Department of Cemeteries.

Board of Commissioners.

RANSOM C. LUCE - - - - - PRESIDENT.

W. H. RAIGUEL. ISAAC SIGLER.

Secretary - - - - - W. H. RAIGUEL.

Superintendent Oak Hill and Valley City Cemeteries WM. RISH.

Superintendent Greenwood Cemetery - - - - - STEPHEN WILCOX.

City officials connected with the construction of the new City Hall, whose terms of office expired before its opening:

MAYORS—CRAWFORD ANGELL, CHARLES E. BELKNAP, JOHN L. CURTISS and E. B. DIKEMAN.

MEMBERS BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS—George W. Thayer, Wilder D. Stevens, A. D. Plumb, D. E. Emery and E. B. Dikeman.

The City of Grand Rapids.

Extracts from the Inaugural Address of Mayor Weston, delivered to the Common Council, May 7, 1888.

Gentlemen of the Common Council:

Fifty years ago to-day, on the first Monday in May, 1838, the 141 voters, who occupied the few houses then on the present site of this city, assembled and held their first municipal election under the new village charter, which incorporated them as the village of Grand Rapids, in the township of Kent, county of Kalamazoo. Four years previous, April 3, 1834, the township of Kent held its first election at the house of Joseph Guild, where the National City Bank building now stands, when nine voters were present to elect seventeen township officials. Every voter obtained one office, four received two, and two were compelled to take three each. Twelve years later the village was changed by the Legislature of 1850 to a city.

Of the 141 voters who participated in that municipal election several are yet active business men in our city. But one of the trustees then elected is living, Hon. Charles L. Walker, also the first treasurer, now a practicing lawyer in Detroit, who was afterwards a distinguished judge and a professor of law in our State University.

Making due allowance for the sanguine expectations of speculative pioneers, I doubt if one of those 141 early settlers believed that on its semi-centennial anniversary Grand Rapids could have attained its present population, wealth and importance.

From a few primitive cabins we have grown to a metropolitan city of 75,000 inhabitants, with 100 miles of streets paved or otherwise improved.

Those intelligent, enterprising men, who had the foresight to discern the natural advantages of this locality, at the head of steamboat navigation on Grand River, and founded the second city in the State, builded wiser than they knew. To-day the survivors of those pioneers see eight

railroads centering in the city, and also a steamboat line to Lake Michigan, bringing to us the vast trade and commerce of Western Michigan, and giving positive assurance of our future growth and prosperity as a great commercial center. During every ten years since its incorporation Grand Rapids has at least doubled in population, and 1890 will surely bring us 100,000, or an increase of 200 per cent. over 1880. Our furniture and other steam and water power factories give employment to upward of 10,000 operatives, whose products are shipped to almost every civilized country in the world. Our business blocks and private residences are among the finest to be found in any city of equal size in the country. Our magnificent river, flowing through the heart of the city, one fifth of a mile in width, is spanned by eight splendid bridges, of which six are new iron structures of the latest and most improved design.

Twenty-two elegant and commodious school houses give educational accommodations to 8,000 children. Our new City Hall is the finest public building in the state, and our Fire Department and other city buildings are in keeping with it.

Four daily papers and seven banks, five National and two State, are required to supply the wants of the city. Our street railway system, which includes horse cars, cable and steam motors, is one of the most extensive, complete and perfect in its construction, equipment and operation to be found in the United States.

Our Telephone Exchange has 1,200 subscribers, which is positive proof of the activity of business in the city. Forty-seven churches, occupied by fifty-one active clergymen, including two bishops, are unmistakable evidences of a moral and law abiding community.

Aside from its natural advantages, I attribute the gratifying growth of Grand Rapids to three causes:

First—We owe much to the character of the settlers who started the city. They were men of intelligence, industry and enterprise. As they accumulated a surplus it was put into manufacturing or commercial enterprises, which gave employment to other men, built up the city, and yielding them fair returns on their capital. They had no use for bond or farm mortgage investments. They pursued a liberal policy towards their employes, which insured cordial co-operation in the work of developing a great manufacturing city.

Second—Our city has been favored with workingmen remarkable for their intelligence, industry and thrift. Although essentially a manufacturing city, we have never been retarded by a disturbing strike of any importance. A mutual feeling of fairness has ever prevailed on the part of both employers and employes, which prevented anything of that character. The blatant advocates of anarchism could never find a listener among our law-abiding and intelligent workingmen. We are proud of our substan-

tial business blocks, the palatial residences on our fashionable avenues and our handsome and commodious public buildings, but we are much prouder of the miles of streets lined by the handsome homes of our workingmen. Their skill and industry have always commanded liberal wages and prompt pay. Their temperate habits have insured prosperity and now comfortable, tasty houses, owned by the occupants, is the rule among them. A large majority of the churches in the city are supported by them and they are the principal patrons of some of our daily papers. As a class they have achieved a deserved prosperity which we should do our utmost to promote and encourage.

Third -This city has been unusually fortunate in its officials. Intelligence, integrity and economy have been the rule governing our municipal affairs. I cannot call to mind a case of embezzlement, defalcation or bribery, either from personal knowledge or hearsay, among officials during the half century of our municipal existence. For this remarkable record we must give much of the credit to the workingmen, who have cast a majority of the votes, and held a majority of the offices in our city. The idea which prevails among a certain class that workingmen are unfit to manage governmental affairs, has been thoroughly disproved in Grand Rapids.

In short, enterprising capitalists, intelligent workingmen and honest officials have combined to make Grand Rapids what it is. We who constitute our municipal government for the ensuing year have much to do to meet the requirements of this great and growing city and maintain its record for official efficiency.

The financial affairs of the city, as shown by the complete report of the treasurer published last week, are in a very satisfactory condition. It shows our bonded indebtedness as follows:

Board of Education Bonds	-	-	-	-	\$212,000
Water Works Bonds	-	-	-	-	382,000
City Hall Bonds	-	-	-	-	170,000
Total	-	-	-	-	\$764,000
ASSETS.					
School Property	-	-	-	-	\$656,500
Water Works	-	-	-	-	528,166
Fire Department	-	-	-	-	122,988
City Hall	-	-	-	-	300,000
Total	-	-	-	-	\$1,607,654

I have made no account of our parks, bridges and tax title property, which is considerable. Taking into consideration that we have no county or state debt, this statement is a highly favorable one.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

The report of improvements made by the Board during the past year shows expenditures as follows:

For Streets	-	-	-	-	-	\$99,535 00
For Sewers	-	-	-	-	-	22,753 00
For Water Mains	-	-	-	-	-	30,427 00
Other Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	12,952 44
Total	-	-	-	-	-	\$165,667 44

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The completion of a new house for No. 3 gives the city seven comparatively new and very commodious engine houses, containing all modern improvements. Our apparatus consists of four steamers, two chemical engines, two hook and ladder trucks and seven two-horse hose carts, manned by forty-seven full-pay and thirty-eight part pay men.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Law and order is the foundation of commercial prosperity in any city. The important business which devolves upon our Police Department is being conducted in an efficient manner. Our business streets are well patrolled by as many men as can be used to advantage.

The total number of persons on the department rolls is seventy-two, of whom two are detectives, one a truant officer, acting under orders of the Board of Education, fifty-one doing patrol duty, and the balance, eighteen, are officers and men employed about headquarters.

Opening of New City Hall,

GRAND RAPIDS MICH.

Wednesday, September 26th, 1888.

PROGRAMME OF EXERCISES.

City officials, ex-city officials and invited guests will meet at the old Common Council Room and move in procession to the new City Hall at 2 o'clock p. m., proceeding to the third floor of the building, when the assembly will be called to order by Mayor L. M. WESTON.

VOCAL MUSIC - - - - - By the Schubert Club.
PRAYER By Rt. Rev. Geo. D. Gillespie, D. D., Bishop of Western Mich.
REMARKS - - - - - By E. E. Myers, Architect of the Building.
REMARKS - - - - - By W. D. Richardson, Contractor.

Presentation of the building on behalf of the Board of Public Works to the city, by President GEORGE G. BRIGGS.

Acceptance and dedication on behalf of the city by Mayor L. M. WESTON.

VOCAL MUSIC - - - - - By the Schubert Club.
HISTORICAL ADDRESS - - - - - By Hon. Charles L. Walker, of Detroit.

First Treasurer of the Village of Grand Rapids.

VOCAL MUSIC - - - - - By the Schubert Club.
SHORT ADDRESSES - - - - - By Citizens.
VOCAL MUSIC - - - - - By the Schubert Club.
BENEDICTION By Rt. Rev. J. H. Richter, D. D., Bishop of G'd Rapids.

EVENING.

Building will be opened at 7:30 o'clock.

VOCAL MUSIC - - - - - By the Schubert Club.
Reception by the Mayor and other city officers from 8 to 9:30.
Instrumental music inside the building day and evening by Prof. Wellenstein's full orchestra.

COMMITTEES.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MAYOR I. M. WESTON, Chairman.

Geo. W. Thayer, Ex-President Board of Public Works. Alderman Geo. H. Davidson.

GENERAL COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS.

MAYOR I. M. WESTON, Chairman.

COMMON COUNCIL.

Alderman George H. Davidson. Alderman Fred. Saunders. Alderman Robt. Sprout.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Col. Geo. G. Briggs. Wilder D. Stevens. James N. Davis.

Freeman Godfrey. W. R. Shelby.

CITIZENS COMMITTEE.

EX-MAYOR GEO. W. THAYER, Chairman.

Ex-Mayor Thomas B. Church. Ex-Mayor Chas. Shepard.

Ex-Mayor Wm. T. Powers. Ex-Mayor Martin L. Sweet.

Ex-Mayor C. C. Comstock.

Ex-Mayor Chas. E. Belknap. Ex-Mayor Francis Letellier.

Ex-Mayor John W. Champlin. Ex-Mayor Geo. G. Steketee.

Ex-Mayor Edmund B. Dikeman. Ex-Mayor Geo. K. Johnson.

Ex-Mayor Gilbert M. McCray. Ex-Mayor Julius Houseman.

Ex-Mayor L. H. Randall. Ex-Mayor John L. Curtiss.

Ex-Mayor Crawford Angell. Ex-Alderman Charles T. Brenner.

COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME.

EX-MAYOR GEO. W. THAYER, Chairman.

Ex-Mayor Chas. E. Belknap. Geo. G. Briggs, Pres't. Board of Public Works.

Alderman Geo. H. Davidson. Alderman Fred Saunders.

COMMITTEE ON SPEAKERS.

EX-MAYOR FRANCIS LETELLIER, Chairman.

Ex-Mayor John W. Champlin. Ex-Mayor Geo. G. Steketee.

COMMITTEE ON MUSIC.

EX-MAYOR GEO. W. THAYER, Chairman

Ex-Mayor Edmund B. Dikeman. Freeman Godfrey of Board of Public Works.

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.

JAMES N. DAVIS, of Board of Public Works, Chairman.

Geo. G. Briggs, President of Board of Public Works. Ex-Mayor John L. Curtiss.

COMMITTEE ON DECORATIONS.

EX-ALDERMAN CHAS. T. BRENNER, Chairman.

W. R. Shelby, of Board of Public Works. Ex-Mayor G. K. Johnson.

COMMITTEE ON INVITATIONS.

MAYOR I. M. WESTON, Chairman.

Alderman Robert Sprout. Ex-Mayor Julius Houseman.

Ex-Mayor Crawford Angell.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

GENERAL I. C. SMITH, Chairman.

Geo. E. Pantlind. Chas. W. McQuewan. J. E. Killean. Huntley Russell.

Henry J. Bennett. Frank Escott. Geo. Hollister. Fred. D. Mills.

C. W. Holden. H. F. Wonderly. Will P. Granger. Stewart DeKraft.

Ed. Van Asmus. Fred. W. Powers. Dudley E. Waters. Ben. S. Hanchett, Jr.

Albert Stonehouse. Horace Waters. Tom M. Pierce.

Opening of the City Hall.

At 2:30 p. m. Mayor L. M. Weston called the audience to order and after a vocal selection by the Schubert Club, invited Rt. Rev. Geo. D. Gillespie, D. D., Bishop of Western Michigan, to invoke Divine Blessing.

THE PRAYER.

O God, who settest the solitary in families, and has gathered the people in the bands of villages and cities; assembled here, we make our ascription of praise and honor to Thy glorious name.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, that Thou didst guide our fathers where our feet stand this day; that Thou didst prosper the work of their hands, laying in the wilderness the foundations of this goodly city; that we have entered into their labors; and the hands of their children have been strengthened to build on their foundations.

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name, we give glory," that in peaceful habitations we enjoy the comforts and conveniences of life, that great interests of business and state are gathered and conserved here, that in our relations to our State and land we are a city set on a hill; gathered for the first time within these walls, we give thanks to Thee that this structure has risen on its sure foundation, to stand for ages, proclaiming a grand enduring city, preserving its archives, dispensing its resources, fostering its business, advancing its education and protecting its worship.

May the dedication of this hour be ever renewed in the wisdom and truth that shall pervade its council chambers, the honesty that shall preserve and administer its trusts, and in the integrity of those who in its departments of rule shall carry out the municipal law and ordinance.

We commend to Thy gracious favor and protection our city—that Thy directing, assisting Spirit may be in all its interests of business, education, health, virtue and religion. Guard our citizens in every calling from its dangers, and make them true to its honor and purpose. Protect our dwellings from the flames. Let us not be smitten with the pestilence. Deliver us from the haunts of vicious appetite and lust. Fashion into our happy people those who have come hither out of many kindreds and

tongues. Put far from us secret murmurings and open violence, the hearts of employers and of those whom they employ being inclined to mutual forbearance, fairness and good will. Give us the praise of a Christian city in the well observed Lord's Day, the silenced blasphemy, the truth proclaimed by the company of the preachers, and the spirit and precept of Christ Jesus pervading all ranks and relations of men.

We implore Thy blessing on the President of the United States, the Governor of this State and all in legislative power and civil rule.

Direct this people in this time of great thoughts of heart on who shall sit in their high places, and what shall be the ordering of great national interests.

Be with us in this hour of dedication, so guiding all minds and lips, that this may be to our city a high day of present gratulation and happy prediction.

Lord give us all at the last place in that continuing city, "that hath foundations whose builder and maker is God," whose "walls are Salvation and its Gates praise."

Through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Amen.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power, and the Glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Remarks of Mr. E. E. Myers, of Detroit, the Architect of the Building.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Three and one-half years ago we commenced work upon this structure, to erect a City Hall building for the use of this beautiful city, this house in your midst. The labor and skill required in the erection of a building like this may not be understood by many of you, but the proper construction of the building was a difficult task, requiring skilled labor of the best character. The work proceeded, stone by stone it was erected; brick after brick was raised and upward was reared the structure that now commands your praise. The inscription "Si Quaris Monumentum Circumspice" was placed upon the great cathedral of St. Paul's in London. The cathedral building is a monument of the glory of Wren as an architect.

and of the skill of the builders. This one stands a monument likewise to official integrity.

The labor and toil devolving upon the Board of Public Works in the erection of this building are perhaps little understood by you. I noticed that you have placed upon the programme no one to speak in their behalf. Yet they here have a friend, a silent, but most potent, friend that attests their integrity and the care which has characterized all their acts in the construction of the building; that friend is the building itself. (Applause.)

It stands here a monument to their fidelity, to their close attention and watchful care in every detail of the construction of this building. When this Board has passed away, that friend, this building, will speak to their children and children's children in its silent grandeur of the fidelity to public trusts of their parents and grand-parents. They have builded for the future and, in this instance at least, have wrought successfully and established a great public structure which for generations will increase the beauty of the city and add materially to the convenience of its officials and citizens.

This building is also an evidence, a very conclusive evidence, of the skill and fidelity of the builder, the contractor, Mr. Richardson. Had he neglected any important features of the construction of the building, or even any of its details, these walls would have told the story: cracks and abrasures at every turn would have been emblems to mark that he had not faithfully performed his duty. The building stands here without blemish and without a crack of any sort. That, Mr. Chairman, that he has well and faithfully performed his work as a true and skilled contractor is evidence. He has been faithful in carrying the work into execution and it speaks for itself. I doubt, sir, whether you can find in the entire State of Michigan, or in any other state in the Union, a structure of similar character where the work has been so thoroughly and successfully performed. No life has been lost in the undertaking, I believe, which is an unusual thing in a work of such magnitude, and to Mr. Richardson and the skilled workmen in his employ, you owe thanks for the construction of this elegant building. You owe thanks to the Board of Public Works for their fidelity in watching over the various processes of construction.

I desire to say, that after years of experience in the erection of public buildings, I have never known a Board of Commissioners to exercise the same close attention that has been devoted to this structure by them, especially in watching every detail and in seeing to it so closely that the people received value for every dollar expended. The plans, of course, were as perfect as I could make them, but had not the builder carried out so fully as he has done his part of the work, the edifice would not have been, as it is to day, an ornament to the State of Michigan. Michigan

has been widely known for the fidelity of its Commissioners having in charge the erection of public buildings, and your actions in regard to the construction of this City Hall have simply added to the luster which the officials of the state had already won in this direction. I desire, as the architect of this building, publicly to express my thanks to the Board of Public Works, who have so laboriously supervised the erection of this new City Hall: to the Superintendent, to whose skill, vigilance and honesty none but good material and accurate work were accepted, and to the contractor and various sub-contractors, who have, to the letter, carried out their great and expensive undertaking, whereby, through the united efforts of all persons employed, the humble but faithful laborer, as well as the skilled and highly valued artisan, the city has come into possession of this beautiful and commodious building for the administration of its city affairs. It is eminently proper that official integrity in great and responsible trusts should receive public recognition and praise from the people whose interests have been so faithfully promoted and guarded. I tender to the members of the Board of Public Works my sincere thanks for the uniform courtesy as the architect of this building throughout the entire course of its construction, and to the citizens of Grand Rapids for their liberality and untiring efforts in behalf of the erection of this beautiful edifice.

Grand Rapids has always been noted throughout the history of the state as one of the most enterprising and public spirited of all the many prosperous municipalities of Michigan. The second city in the state, she yields the palm to none in progress, in the beauty of her natural situation, in the business activity which characterizes her citizens, and in the handsome buildings which are yearly being erected. In this City Hall she possesses one of the finest of her civic adornments. It will remain for centuries to come a memorial of the intelligence, energy and liberality of her people.

President George G. Briggs, of the Board of Public Works, responded as follows:

Mr. Myers :

Nearly four years ago the Board of Public Works of the city of Grand Rapids were called to pass upon the merits and decide between plans, submitted in competition, for a proposed City Hall. By a unanimous vote of the Board the award of preference was given to you. We have never had cause to regret the choice then made, but from that time until the present we, in common with our fellow citizens, have watched the growth of this building with feelings of pride and satisfaction.

Your profession is, indeed, a noble one, and the splendid creations of your mind have been built into enduring structures of granite and stone for the State capitols of Michigan, Texas, Idaho and Colorado, while num-

erous public buildings of your designing, less expensive, but equally beautiful, adorn and are the pride of other cities than our own.

With the present occasion our official relations terminate. The obligations in consideration of your services have been discharged, but in a large sense we must ever remain your debtors.

Presentation to the Board of Public Works by the Builder, Mr. W. D. Richardson.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :

It places me in rather an embarrassing position to stand here and talk about my own work. For that reason I hope you will excuse me from any extended remarks.

I shall simply say to the Board of Public Works and to the officials of the city of Grand Rapids, that I wish to thank them for the kind and considerate manner in which they have always treated me while constructing this building.

So far as the building is concerned it must speak for itself, it does not become me, as the contractor, to praise my own work.

Mr. President, I wish to say to you, that down in the bottom of my heart I shall always have a warm place for the citizens of Grand Rapids.

And now, sir, to you as President of the Board of Public Works, I formally turn over the City Hall.

President Briggs replied as follows :

Mr. Richardson :

In thus formally accepting the building which you have constructed for the city of Grand Rapids, I desire in behalf of the Board of Public Works to thus publicly acknowledge our indebtedness to you for having given us work in every way equal and in many respects better than called for by the specifications under which you worked. You have faithfully met every requirement of good construction from foundation to the smallest detail of interior finish, and your name will always be pleasantly associated with the erection of this edifice, which is long to remain a source of pride to our citizens.

Presentation to the City by President George G. Briggs, of the Board of Public Works.

Mr. Mayor :

I believe the formal dedication of public buildings is generally attended with reports or exhibits from those under whose charge the work was constructed, in which is given the initiatory steps and subsequent acts of legislation, by which the work was inaugurated and completed--final costs of same, names of contractors, etc., etc. Such statistics are necessarily somewhat uninteresting, yet their publication forms a fitting part in the dedicatory exercises, and will be given on this occasion as briefly as possible.

The site upon which this building stands and the building itself, complete, ample and in every respect desirable, are, in view of history of the former plans adopted and the efforts heretofore made to provide the city with a suitable building for public uses, proofs that good often results from delay, and that it would have been a serious mistake had the recommendations of even ten years ago been carried into effect. A few facts gleaned from the history of former legislation, and the efforts of those then in authority to procure a suitable site and secure the erection thereon of a City Hall, may not be uninteresting, and I therefore venture a brief narrative of such.

From a review of the history of the present City Hall site, it is ascertained that at least a portion of its purchase price was paid as early as October 17, 1854, at which time the city bought from J. F. Chubb, for engine house purposes, part of lot 4, block 15, Campau plat, for the sum of \$450. This lot forms in part the ground now occupied by the St. Dennis Block, at the corner of Monroe and Spring streets, and was conveyed to Thos. D. and F. B. Gilbert February 13, 1868, in consideration of \$500 and the title to the east half of lot 9, block 8, Campau plat, which is a portion of the site now occupied by the Ledyard Block, corner of Ottawa and Pearl streets.

June 1, 1872, the city conveyed the above portion of lot 9 to W. B. Ledyard, in consideration of \$9,000, which sum, it would appear, was used in part payment for a portion of lot 1, block 9, Campau plat, as on the same date of the sale to Mr. Ledyard the city purchased from Wm. Haldane the realty last above mentioned, paying therefor the sum of \$11,000.

June 27, 1873, the city purchased from Chas. Shepard, for the sum of \$2,500, a strip of land adjoining its lot on the south 10 feet wide. This site, at the southeast corner of Ottawa and Pearl streets, was sold to D. H. Waters July 5, 1883, for the sum of \$15,000, the amount thus received

being used on the same day in the purchase from Doctor Spaulding of lots 59, 68 and the south half of 73, at the corner of Ottawa and Lyon streets, being 100x125 feet of the site upon which this building stands. The efforts of those in authority to secure a satisfactory site and the final action of the Common Council in ordering the purchase of the Spaulding property, will again be referred to later on.

Assuming the lots last named to be fully worth \$15,000, it would appear that the city has shared in the advantages derived from the growth in real estate values, within her limits, as the original investments by which the Spaulding property was secured are found to be only \$4,450. To the lots obtained from Dr. Spaulding were added by subsequent purchases the lands constituting the site as it now stands. The date of such purchases and the amount paid are as follows:

September 15, 1883, from S. A. Winchester 50x100 feet, being part of lots 82 and 73, for the sum of \$5,500. March 1, 1884, from John Bertsen 50x150 feet, being the west half of lots 58, 69 and 72, for the sum of \$7,500. July 3, 1884, from John Bertsen, 50x150 feet, being the east half of lots 58, 69 and 72, for the sum of \$14,000: the last named purchase included a brick dwelling that originally cost several thousand dollars. The last purchase made was May 6, 1885, from Anthony Bodelack, being 25x100 feet of lot 83, for which the city paid \$3,000.

The total cost of the above real estate, embracing a frontage on Lyon from Ottawa to Ionia streets of 220 feet, and 175 feet in depth, is shown to be \$34,450. A mere statement of the several purchases by which the city acquired the title to the grounds upon which this building is erected, conveys no suggestion of the efforts which were found necessary to complete the work. The last two purchases were especially urged by those who saw the importance of making the site complete, while others opposed, claiming the cost involved would be so great as to defeat all plans for securing the building itself. The wisdom of the outlay is already seen, and time will only more fully confirm the good judgment which secured for the city ground both ample in size and of central location for its City Hall.

Having thus briefly sketched the history of the City Hall lot, a few facts in connection with former plans considered and the erection of the present building may be of interest. The construction of a City Hall for Grand Rapids was first declared a necessary public improvement May 10, 1873. The building was to be erected upon the lot at the southeast corner of Ottawa and Pearl streets, and the resolution to that effect passed the Council by a vote of fifteen to one. This resolution went to the Board of Public Works, who, in compliance therewith, took steps to secure plans for a building 60 by 90 feet in size, and not to exceed in cost \$50,000. Architects were invited to submit plans for such building, and on March

3, 1874, the Board adopted the ones offered by Chas. H. Marsh, awarding at the same time premiums to other competitors as follows: To Grady & Wardell, \$100; to Robinson & Barnabee, \$75.

The plans thus adopted by the Board, together with estimates of cost, were submitted to the Council and were by that body laid on the table March 7, 1874. During the same month some further communications upon the subject passed between the Council and the Board of Public Works, but the whole matter was finally dropped apparently by mutual consent of all concerned, and was not again renewed until nearly four years later.

January 27, 1879, Henry S. Smith, then Mayor of the city, in a special message to the Council, recommended the erection of a building upon the city lot, at the corner of Pearl and Ottawa streets, not to cost more than \$20,000, and so constructed that the first floor could be rented for stores; the upper portions to be used for city purposes. The special committee, to whom the message was referred, failed to agree in any recommendations, and the matter again rested.

September 1, 1879, Mayor Letellier, in a special message to the Council, recommended the erection of a building upon the city lot at a cost of \$20,000, and similar in character to that advocated by his predecessor. At this same session the Council directed the Board of Public Works to procure plans and specifications in accordance with the recommendations made by the Mayor. December 13 following, the Board transmitted to the Council plans and specifications, with estimates of cost for the proposed building, and on the 22d of the same month the Mayor, in a second special message to the Council, urged that steps be taken without delay to carry into effect the recommendations contained in his message of September 1. Public sentiment, however, seemed against the plan proposed, and as it was found that the building would cost upward of \$30,000, the matter was again dropped.

In a communication under date of June 7, 1880, Thomas D. Gilbert and others asked the Council to take the necessary steps to obtain a suitable site for a City Hall without delay; that it would soon be difficult to obtain a central location for the purpose. The special committee to whom this communication was referred reported the results of its labor to the Council January 24, 1881, but made no recommendations. The report was laid on the table, where it remained until June 10 following, when the whole subject matter was again referred to a special committee. This second special committee made its report to the Council September 12, 1881, recommending that the city join with the county in the erection of a building upon Fulton street park, for the joint use of both county and city. The report was laid on the table and the matter again quietly slumbered for a year and a half.

May 28, 1883, Mayor Angell, on motion of Ald. Brenner, appointed a special committee, to whom was assigned the duty of looking up a suitable site for a City Hall. This committee, consisting of Aldermen Brenner, Creque and Grady, reported to the Council June 1st following, recommending the purchase of the lots offered by Dr. Spaulding, at the northeast, corner of Ottawa and Lyon streets, for the sum of \$15,000, and on July 2, 1883, the Council authorized the purchase as recommended, and at the same time ordered the sale of the city lot, corner of Ottawa and Pearl streets, for the like sum of \$15,000, reserving therefrom the fire alarm bell and tower. On the 9th of the same month the committee reported the sale of the city lot and the purchase of the Spaulding property, and their action was thereupon ratified and confirmed by a unanimous vote of the Council.

July 12, 1883, the Council once more and for the last time declared the erection of a City Hall a necessary public improvement, and on the 12th of the same month it confirmed its former action by requesting the Board of Public Works to procure plans for such a building, same to cost from \$100,000 to \$150,000. These resolutions led to the erection of the building which we are now assembled to formally dedicate to the public uses for which it was designed.

The question to be submitted to the electors and what amount should be raised to build a City Hall was considered by the Council March 31, 1884. Alderman Brenner's resolution calling for \$100,000 was, upon motion of Alderman Gilbert, amended to read \$150,000. The proposition was submitted to the electors April 7 following, and the loan was authorized by a majority vote of 3,278.

The matter was now in the hands of the Board of Public Works, and that body at once proceeded to give careful consideration and study to the needs and requirements of the city, and which the proposed building, when erected, should properly meet and supply. The labor of such study and investigation was sufficiently advanced to enable the Board, on June 30, 1884, to give in its circular to competing architects full particulars and information as to the number of rooms to be provided in the building, and the purposes for which the same would be required. By limiting competition to six of the leading architects of the country, plans were secured without the offer or payment of premiums.

The several plans were received and opened by the Board October 1, 1884, and from this time until the 21st of the same month the plans submitted were given careful study and investigation. The Board were unanimous in adopting the plans submitted by E. E. Myers, of Detroit, Michigan, and the award was accordingly made to that gentleman October 21, 1884.

As soon as the working drawings of the proposed building were com-

pleted, viz: February 4, 1885, the Board advertised for sealed proposals for the erection and completion of the work as called for by the plans and specifications. March 19, 1885, the bids, six in number, were opened, and at a session of the Board the following day the same were all rejected, and the work ordered re-advertised. Bids solicited by second advertisement were opened and considered by the the Board April 9, 1885. That of W. D. Richardson, of Springfield, Illinois, at \$185,641.68 was found to be the lowest, but as the sum named exceeded the amount available and at the disposal of the Board, all bids were laid on the table.

The result of both first and second bidding demonstrated that the building called for by the plans adopted could not be secured for the sum provided, viz: \$150,000, and it was therefore determined to submit the facts to the Council to ascertain if any award should be made, or if plans for a less expensive building must be obtained. A special meeting of the Council was thereupon called by Mayor Belknap for Friday, April 10, and an invitation was also extended to citizens to be present. A full meeting of the Council, and a large number of prominent citizens responded to the call. After a full statement of the situation had been made to the meeting by President Thayer, of the Board of Public Works, a resolution was offered by Ald. Killeau, which passed by sixteen votes, authorizing the Board to let the contract to the lowest responsible bidder. This action of the Council was fully endorsed by the citizens present, who, upon motion of Freeman Godfrey, voted unanimously in favor of the erection of a city hall after the plans adopted by the Board of Public Works, and that the contract for the same be awarded from among the bids now in the hands of said Board. Whereupon the members of the Board reassembled at the office of the Board of Public Works and the bid of W. D. Richardson was accepted, and the contract for the erection of a City Hall, as called for by the plans of E. E. Myers, was awarded to said Richardson for the sum of \$185,641.68. This contract was approved by the Council April 11, 1885.

The first estimate upon this contract was certified by the Board June 13, 1885. Settlement was had and final payment made the contractor August 25, 1888.

The expenditures made by the Board of Public Works in the erection of the City Hall are as follows:

To W. D. Richardson, contractor.....	\$185,641 68
Extra work ordered not included in contract.....	3,494 12
To E. E. Myers, architect.....	6,000 00
For tiling floors.....	8,899 96
For heating apparatus and appliances.....	11,909 80
For stone walks and coping.....	10,446 15
For mantels and grates	1,888 10
For gas fixtures	3,135 21

For elevator and connections.....	3,168 58
For tower clock.....	2,231 61
For bronze work	1,163 12
For inspectors of work	5,256 00
For painting.....	461 15
For oiling floors	364 48
For printing	292 87
For grading and sodding lot, sewers, etc.....	1,332 63
 Total.....	 \$245,685 46
Adding cost of real estate	34,450 00
And cost of furniture.....	10,203 15

And the grand total is seen to be \$290,338 61

The names of the architect, contractor, sub-contractors and inspectors of works are as follows:

E. E. Myers, Detroit, Michigan, architect.

W. D. Richardson, Springfield, Illinois, contractor.

Weatherly & Pulte, Grand Rapids, Michigan, mantels, grates and gas fixtures.

Detroit Metal and Heating Works, steam heating apparatus and fixtures.

E. Ferrand & Co., Detroit, Michigan, tile work and bronze figures.

Alex. Matheson, Grand Rapids, Michigan, stone walks and coping.

Howard Watch Co., tower clock.

W. E. Hale & Co., Chicago, Illinois, elevator.

Andrews & Co., Chicago, Illinois, bronze work.

A. H. Fowle, Grand Rapids, Michigan, interior bronze work.

Principal sub-contractors were :

Interior wood finish—Bennett & Osbun, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Slate roof—Knisley & Miller, Chicago, Illinois.

Plaster and stucco work—Dodge & Carey, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Plumbing—Weatherly & Pulte, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Superintendents of work—John S. Farr and Charles Woodard.

The furniture was supplied by the Phoenix Furniture Company, after designs by D. W. Kendall. This work was done under the direction of the Common Council.

Mr. Mayor, it would be natural and perhaps pardonable for me to avail myself of the present occasion to invite attention to the services of the Board of Public Works, in connection with the work now happily completed, but as the building itself is perhaps the best evidence of the value of their service, I need only say that the plans adopted for this building represent the taste and judgement of the Board, while the man-

ner of its completion is our report of an important duty performed—a public trust faithfully discharged.

This completes my report, Mr. Mayor, and now to you, as the representative and chief executive of the city of Grand Rapids, I give the keeping and custody of this building, trusting that its pure architecture and harmonious lines may be a constant incentive to those who shall legislate within its walls to so act that the general good may be always promoted.

Acceptance and Formal Opening by Mayor Weston.

Mr. President :

In behalf of Grand Rapids I am pleased to accept this handsome and commodious edifice, and as chief executive of this city I hereby declare it open for public use.

It is a grand monument to the generous enterprise of our citizens; to the taste, the ability and the integrity of the Board that built, the architect who planned and the contractor and superintendent charged with its erection. Graceful in design, solid in construction, ample in accommodations, it stands a source of pride to every one of our 75,000 inhabitants.

For the first time our city government owns its home. Following the practical conservatism which has ever characterized the administration of our municipal matters, we first provided ample and elegant school structures; a complete system of necessary public improvements; and now, in the full tide of prosperity, when the tax is scarcely felt, we build an official residence creditable to our rank among cities, where we can dwell in comfort and entertain with pride.

But while proud of our new and elegant home, I am far prouder of the record made by Grand Rapids during her fifty years' existence as a municipal government. The aim of her officials has been to give a pure, able and economical administration of public affairs; to advance morality, promote enterprise, protect labor, administer justice and combat ignorance. During this half century there has been no definite charge of misconduct against an official of Grand Rapids. This fact is remarkable and should be an incentive for all to maintain the enviable reputation we have so thoroughly earned. Let us hope that all future legislation and official acts within these halls will be for the common weal—doing exact justice to all, renumerating that the good done will survive long after these walls are in decay.

Remarks of Hon. Charles I. Walker.

After a selection by the Schubert Club, Mayor Weston said:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honor of introducing one of the pioneers of Grand Rapids, the only living official elected at the first municipal election held in what was then the Village of Grand Rapids; a gentleman who, although no longer a resident of this city, still continues to reside in the state in which he has been honored as a professor of law in our State University, as Judge of the leading circuit of the state, and a leader in his profession, Judge Charles I. Walker, of Detroit.

Judge Walker said:

Mr. Mayor, and Ladies and Gentlemen:

I came to Grand Rapids in June, 1836, and remained here for five years, and until 1841, and, as has been said, I was one of the first Board of Trustees for the City of Grand Rapids, elected in 1838, and am the only surviving member of that Board.

I have been invited to be present on this occasion, and I had supposed that this was upon the ground that I was a kind of relic of antiquity. (Laughter and applause.) But I see that it is announced that I am to make a speech.

I have made no formal preparation for any such speech, and shall not make one. I may make a few suggestions in relation to matters as they were when I came here in 1836, and soon after that.

It affords me very great pleasure to be present upon this occasion, the dedication of this building, the finest one of the kind in the State of Michigan (applause), and to meet some of the old-time friends. It is a pleasure to meet these friends, but, of course, there is mingled with this pleasure and joy some recollections, tender and dear, of the departed ones.

One of the things that most deeply impresses me is the contrast between Grand Rapids as it was in 1836 and '38, and as it is to-day.

This morning, before the rain began, I walked around this city some, and saw something of its beauties as it now exists. I have visited it occasionally within the last fifteen and twenty years, but it has got to be a wonderful and beautiful city.

The first contrast that strikes me is as to the mode of getting here. I came to Grand Rapids from Detroit yesterday afternoon in a little over four hours. In '36 it took from four to five days to come here.

Those who are not familiar with a new country, and were not here at an early day, can hardly form any conception of the difficulty of making roads and traveling in a new country, especially if it is a wooded one. It took two days to get to Kalamazoo. There were two ways of getting

there, one through the heavy timbered lands, by the way of Yankee Springs, and the other was to go up to the mouth of the Thornapple River at Ada, and ford it there, and then follow up the river to the south and ford it again near Leonard's, and finally to work our way until we got to Kalamazoo, taking two full days. The corduroy roads, the marshes, the fording of the streams, the rough bridges, are all fresh in my recollection.

I cannot give you many of the adventures connected with such travel, but let me mention some of the incidents of one single trip.

In the fall of 1836 I was appointed a delegate to the Senatorial Convention, to be held at Schoolcraft. I started with my associate in a stage, a common two-horse lumber wagon, and arrived at the mouth of the Thornapple river, which we undertook to ford, and in driving over the wagon floated up and lifted out the king-bolt, and the horses went ahead and left the hind wheels and the box of the wagon floating down the river. (Applause.)

This is one of my experiences, but we got some help from Rix Robinson's men and others and some Indians, and rescued the wagon and contents from the river. There happened to be a man along there with a buggy, which had a step with a round shank to it. That step was filed off and made into a king-bolt, and we went on.

On my way back I had a still more striking experience. We took passage in the same stage. The stage driver had a saddle horse under his charge that he was taking to Grand Rapids, and I was permitted to mount the saddle in preference to a seat in the stage wagon. We staid all night at Leonard's, and in the early morning the stage started for Grand Rapids and I accompanied it on a horse. Among the passengers was a gentleman, his wife and child, who were from Detroit, and on their way to Grandville.

We set out to cross the upper ford of the Thornapple: the water was generally too deep for that purpose, but there was a ridge at a particular point where the water was sufficiently shallow to enable us to ford the stream.

The stage wagon with the passengers was driven into the river, but soon got into deep water, and the horses became frightened, and the wagon commenced floating and seemed about to turn over in the stream. I was on the river bank in the saddle, and seeing the wagon turning over I rode in and caught the baby in my arms and took it to the bank of the river and dropped it down, then I went back to rescue the mother. I made some futile efforts, and found that the only way to do this was to throw my arms around her and thus carry her to the shore, which I did.

Some of the baggage got into the river and the horses were greatly excited and would make no effort to get the wagon to the shore. Myself and the other male passengers waded into the water nearly up to our arm pits,

unhitched the horses and stayed there and held the wagon until the driver went back to a farm house and got a yoke of oxen and a chain, and with their aid the wagon was got out.

I thought Grand Rapids at the time to be a very busy place for one of its size, but one of the contrasts that now impresses me deeply is the business of that day compared with the business of to-day as one looks around this great and beautiful city.

Grand Rapids had in early 1836 somewhere from four to five hundred people. It filled up very much during that year, and it was at that time a very busy place. There were some old Indian traders, and among them Louis and Antoine Campau, Richard Godfroy and others, and there was not a little of Indian trading, indeed, the principal traffic was selling goods to the Indians and buying furs of them. There were no agricultural products brought into market at that time. Our flour, our pork, our butter, etc., were in the main brought from Ohio by vessels coming round the lakes and up the river. The truth is there had been comparatively little farming done at that time, and everything was very new. Louis Campau came here in 1828, ten years previous to this time, but it was not until 1834 that the population began to come into Grand Rapids and the country around it, but from that time until the close of 1836 there had been a great influx of population, and there was one of the most wonderful booms in the value of property that was ever known. There has been nothing like it since. A great rush of immigration with the expectation that land was to grow immensely in value prevailed. The woods were filled with men following section lines, looking out valuable lands. I know something of this for it was a part of my business. I came here as the agent of some investors in real estate, who wanted to purchase other lands, and I know what it is to follow section lines day after day, looking up lands to be entered. The experiences were not always agreeable, but it is wonderful how good salt pork tasted in some of these trips, and even the raw salt pork I have eaten under circumstances that made it taste delicious.

I remember upon one occasion myself and companion had been following section lines the entire day, and made a great effort to reach a log hut rather than camp for the night upon the ground. Upon reaching it we found that there was but one bed in the building, but they made up a place on the floor for us to sleep, and we laid down there. I have a distinct recollection of having my slumbers disturbed by mice running over my face in the night time. This was one of our experiences.

As I have said, there was an immense boom in real estate all over the land in 1836. Michigan was the nearest of the Western States to the East, and the flood of immigration was very great, and the promises of the

future seemed wonderful to the speculators, and they were buying village lots in paper towns and real estate everywhere.

It is difficult for one who has not passed through such an experience to conceive the wonderful change that followed this boom and rush of immigration when the suspension of specie payments came in 1837. Business seemed utterly prostrate, and the price of real estate was very greatly depressed. Those who had bought land of the government at government prices deliberately let them be sold for taxes, rather than pay the taxes and keep the land. Purchasers who had paid one-half of the purchase price of the lands bought by them, chose to give them up, rather than pay the balance due. This great depression continued for some years.

There is one thing I wish to speak of and that is the culture, enterprise and energy of Grand Rapids at that early day. I have been familiar with ambitious towns in New England and New York, and many of them, and I never saw a village of its size that had so many intelligent, cultivated and enterprising men and women as Grand Rapids had at that early day. I believe in the doctrine of heredity; I think that these principles and practices have come down to Grand Rapids of to-day, and that its culture, intelligence, enterprise and wealth of to-day is owing largely to these early settlers. There were many cultured ladies and a most charming, delightful social circle. Let me mention a few of those names to illustrate my meaning. There was General Withey, the father of the late Judge Withey, with his family, you have his representatives here to-day. There were the two Hindsdills, Hiram and Myron, and their descendants are still with you. There was Judge Almy and Deacon Page, who lived side by side in log huts by the side of the river. They were cultured people. You know the representatives of Deacon Page. One is Mrs. Richmond and the other is Mrs. Custer, the widow of General Custer. There was refinement and culture in these homes and in many others. Among others that might be named was the Pierces and Smiths; Judge Martin, the Nelsons and others.

There are some among you to-day that came to Grand Rapids about the same time that I did, and who need no eulogy from me; you know them well and appreciate them. I refer to Dr. Shepard and Charles H. Taylor. .

There were some men and women of culture who were here temporarily and who have left no descendants, but who contributed their share to the organization of the social circle of Grand Rapids. One was Dr. Higginson, a brother of the author, Wentworth Higginson, a man of high culture and noble character. And there was S. M. Johnson and the Coggesshalls. There was also the Winsors, William A. Richmond and Noble H. Finney and the Lymans. They were classes of men that any community might well be proud of. Subsequently others came who

materially aided in giving character to the place. There was John Ball, whose reputation is well known to most of you. He came in 1837, I think, about the same time Thomas B. Church and the Rev. Addison Ballard came, and others still could be mentioned. There was a social life, even in these hard times of 1837, that was wonderful, both socially and intellectually. We had a Grand Rapids Lyceum that was the best Lyceum I ever attended, and I have been a member of lyceums in New York and in Vermont, but I have never known of one of such a high standard of culture as this one at Grand Rapids at that day. The leading persons that I have mentioned took part in this lyceum, and the social character of the town was quite as remarkable.

My recollections of Grand Rapids are most delightful, as it continued from 1836 to the time I left in 1841, and I say, as I said before, I think the character of the people who first settled here has something to do with the character of Grand Rapids, and that their influence is felt to this day.

You have a most beautiful city. It surprised me to see the improvements that are being made and the business that exists here. You are the second city in size in the state, but there are a great many larger cities in other states that will not compare with this in beauty, and in the character and enterprise of its people. You may well be proud of these citizens and of this beautiful city. You may also well be proud of this structure, as a specimen of the taste, enterprise and character of this municipality.

I thank you. As I said before, I did not come to make a speech, and I have no formal speech to make, but I am glad to meet you, and that you may look upon me as one of the relics of antiquity. (Applause.)

Remarks of Ex-Mayor George W. Thayer.

After a musical selection rendered by the Schubert Club, Mayor Weston said :

Ladies and Gentlemen :

Several months ago, as this building approached completion, I recommended to the Common Council the appointment of a committee consisting of the living ex-Mayors of the city, to act in connection with our Building Committee in arranging the ceremonies of this opening. I also suggested as the chairman of that committee one of our honored ex-Mayors, an ex-President of the Board of Public works, who was instrumental and very active in the erection of this building. In naming the sub-committees I appointed him chairman of the committee to arrange the programme. I had advised him that he would be expected to speak on this occasion, but I see, with his usual modesty, he omitted his name from the pro-

gramme, and I will, therefore, call for some remarks from Hon. George W. Thayer.

Mr. Thayer said :

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen :

As I have but recently been advised that I should be called upon on this occasion, I am not prepared to do justice at this time to the topic that should occupy my thoughts. Being unable in consequence of pressing duties to give attention to what I should desire to present to you orally, I have taken the liberty to meet this emergency by committing to paper a few lines only.

This occasion is one of more than passing interest to those members of the Board of Public Works under whose supervision this building was planned and erected. It is more than four years since this now fully completed work was commenced. Without previous experience in the erection of public buildings of this class, the Board undertook the duties that devolved upon them; they gained knowledge as to the manner in which they should proceed, by the most painstaking investigation, and by the considerate exercise of their most mature judgment. And now, after reviewing the work they have accomplished, and the methods by which it was attained, there are but few changes that their experience suggests.

These exercises will be lastingly impressed upon our minds by reason of the commendatory words that have fallen upon our ears; they will serve to illumine the past, and hereafter as our minds review the somewhat thorny path that we have together gone over, these words will come to us again and again, and fill us with a glow of pride and satisfaction; they must ever be to us a well spring of pleasure. Yet we shall never be unmindful of the fact, that all our solicitude, efforts and labor have only been to do as God gave us to see it, a plain duty; a duty that we owed to the public, whose interest has ever been our one motive of action. How successful we have been in those efforts, your kind assurances and this building will long stand as enduring evidence.

Letter of Ex-Mayor C. C. Comstock.

Mayor Weston read the following communication from ex-Mayor C. C. Comstock :

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., September 26, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor.

Dear Sir : As a citizen and taxpayer of Grand Rapids I wish to acknowledge my obligations to the projectors and builders of this substantial and beautiful monument to the enterprise of our time. As the generations come and go for peaceful ages, and the old records in its vaults

grow dim, these solid walls and iron pillars will stand as silent witnesses of the care, skill and integrity of the builders. When we consider the cost of construction, we should be prouder of the builders than of the building. Had they been but ordinary men and officials, it might have cost \$100,000 more and been worth \$100,000 less. I would be pleased to see their names engraved upon its walls, and above all in raised letters of solid gold the name of George W. Thayer, ex-President of the Board of Public Works.

Very respectfully yours,

C. C. COMSTOCK.

Remarks of Ex-Mayor John W. Champlin, Judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen :

The city of Grand Rapids was organized as a city government in 1850. Thirty-eight years have passed since then, and there have been twenty-eight mayors of the city. Not alluding to myself, I may say that they have been all worthy citizens, men of integrity, uprightness and zeal for the welfare of Grand Rapids. Indeed, three of them have been called to fill higher positions. So it seems as if the mayoralty was a stepping stone to representative in Congress; but it is not a true talisman, for the reason that at least two of the others have received the nomination and did not get there. (Applause.) Nine have died and passed away, nearly one-third of the whole number. This is no time nor occasion for any eulogium upon their lives and characters. Messrs. Williams, Cole, Withey, Foster, Fox, Pierce, Aldrich, Smith and White have passed away. They were noble men and

They labored in their sphere as men who live
In the delight that work alone can give.
Peace be to them, eternal peace and rest,
And the fulfillment of the great behest:
"Ye have been faithful over a few things,
Over ten cities shall ye reign as Kings."

When we mark the progress of the growth of this city, when we look at its material prosperity, its gradual expansion, its increase of population, its schools and churches, its local improvements, designed to secure the health and happiness of the people, we may be excused if we should upon this occasion indulge in a little self-glorification.

What distinguishes a citizen of Grand Rapids from all others is his abiding faith in the future of the city of Grand Rapids. Upon this theme their hearts beat in unison. You hear it in their voice, you see it glistening in their eyes, you catch the inspiration from their gesture when this theme is touched upon. He may wander away,

he may visit other lands, but whether he minglest with the busy marts of the world and views with wonder their stupendous structures, their work of art, or ponders over the history of the past, whether he strays among the orange groves of Florida or lingers among the vineyards of the Pacific slope, with its golden fruit, his heart turns with pride to his own beautiful city in the valley. Such feelings are commendable. It was in speaking of his own Scotland that Sir Walter Scott said :

“Breathes there a man with soul so dead
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land,
Whose heart has ne'er within him burned,
As home his footsteps he hath turned,
From wandering on a foreign strand?
If such there be, go, mark him well;
For him no Minstrel raptures swell;
High though his titles, proud his name,
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim;
Despite those titles, power and pelf,
The wretch concentred all in self,
Living shall forfeit fair renown,
And doubly dying, shall go down
To the vile dust, from whence he sprung,
Unwept, unhonored and unsung.”

This faith in the future of Grand Rapids has always been entertained from its founders down. They looked forward and pictured in their imagination a great and prosperous city. Before there were a dozen houses here they had a great city laid out on paper, and they marked thereon a ship canal around the rapids, and the dam, and the water power. I remember one lithograph of a portion of the city which was gotten up by James Scribner, one of the pioneers of this town and one of the proprietors of Scribner & Turner's plat, and the sole proprietor of Scribner's Oak Oil, which, when I first came here, was a sovereign remedy for all the ills that flesh was heir to in those days, including fever and ague, which was the most common ailment at that time. Then there was but one bridge across Grand river, and that was upon Bridge street. This lithographic plat of Scribner's had three bridges across Grand river marked upon it, and strange to say, very nearly where three have been built since. Through his eye of faith he saw three bridges span the majestic stream, but the reality has outstripped what seemed at that time the chimera of an enthusiast; but there was one thing indicated on this map that has not yet come to pass. As I said, the bridges, the dam and the water power were all laid down on the map, and there was also an arrow in the stream indicating the course of the current, and the point of the arrow was *up* stream, indicating that the water of the river ran up over the rapids, instead of down. That part of the proprietor's prophecy has not yet been fulfilled, but I will not venture to say it may not be.

Grand Rapids has lately become a port of entry by act of Congress, and if ever a ship enters this port it will be when the waters of Lake Michigan run up the rapids. Perhaps this may yet be done by act of Congress, or by act of God.

It has been a long time to wait for this building, but none too long. It is better we should be grown to manhood before we put on man's attire.

We have waited until our growth called for such a building as this, and here in this city of beautiful and tasty homes, of miles of solid blocks, of manufactories where the hum of industry and the music of the swift turning wheels keep pace with the revolving hours, this building in its beauty of design and magnificent proportions sits like a jewel in a crown. Appropriate, not for a day, but for generations which shall come after us and fill these corridors and offices with the music of their voices, and to whose wisdom, care and foresight we must commit the future welfare and renown of this goodly city.

It is a beautiful monument commemorative of the energy, enterprise and prosperity of the city we love. "From turret to foundation stone" it stands unique in its simplicity, and yet it is not complete. It lacks one thing. I have admired its exterior. I have inspected its spacious rooms, its corridors and entrance-ways. I have searched for and have not found some tablet whereon was inscribed the cost of its construction, the names, which should be imperishable, of those fellow-citizens who have given their time almost gratuitously to the careful construction of this beautiful edifice, and through whose oversight it has been erected.

I am not the only one who has noticed this omission. A communication from an ex-Mayor has already been read: some of the largest tax-payers of the city have suggested to me the propriety of some action to be taken by this meeting, looking to supplying this omission. I therefore present to this meeting the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, the construction of this building has from its first beginning to its final completion been under the direction of the Board of Public Works.

And whereas, no city in this Union can show a public building more beautiful in design or more thoroughly and substantially constructed in every detail for a like cost to the tax payers.

And whereas, this City Hall presents indisputable evidence of careful attention, of fidelity and integrity to the public interests on the part of those who have had its construction in charge:

Therefore, as a testimonial of public appreciation of such services, be it resolved, by the citizens of Grand Rapids on this occasion assembled, that the Common Council, their chosen representatives, be and hereby are respectfully requested to cause to be erected at the expense of the city in one of the corridors of this hall, or in some other suitable and conspicuous

place a tablet of stone or metal, containing the names of George W. Thayer, George G. Briggs, Wilder D. Stevens, Adelmer D. Plumb, David E. Emery and James N. Davis, under whose direction and supervision this building was erected, together with the names of the architect who designed the plan and the contractor who performed the work, containing also the cost of construction, and the fact that it was erected by the Board of Public Works, and that such tablet was placed at the request of the tax-payers as a testimonial to official integrity and faithful discharge of duty to the public.

Remarks of Thomas D. Gilbert, Ex-Member of the Board of Public Works.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen :

I am not as well fixed as my friend, Judge Champlin, was (applause), so it is quite possible I may say something that I shall wish I had not. I am very thankful, to say the least, for this opportunity to express my individual thanks as a tax-payer and citizen to the gentlemen who have had charge of the construction of this building. And I am especially thankful that they have not been crowded into undue haste in its completion. Time is an essential element in the development of a good building, and they have taken that time, and I am thankful that it is so. There comes a time in the history of all municipalities when it becomes necessary to take power in a measure out of the hands of the masses; that is universal. The time came in the history of Grand Rapids when we had to have a School Board; we had to have a Board of Police and Fire Commissioners; we had to have a Board of Public Works. There was opposition at first, as there always is, but I believe that has been entirely eliminated by the manner in which our Board has discharged its duty. So that it may be fairly said, that on the whole the people of Grand Rapids, as they usually are in other cities, have been greatly benefitted by the operation of these Boards.

Now, Mr. Mayor, as I look over this splendid building, our bridges, which cannot be excelled anywhere, our churches, school houses, street railways, public library, everything, in fact, that constitutes a flourishing city, there comes up before my mental vision the first time that I paid a visit to Grand Rapids. It goes back a year beyond the time of my friend, Mr. Walker, in the summer of 1835. A dozen little wooden tenements, an 18x24 hotel that stood on what is now Campau Square, our streets, the best of them, but Indian trails, a duck pond where the postoffice stands, one third of the First ward, where all the railways now concentrate, an impassable swamp, the west side of the river the property of the Indian,

with not a white man between Grand river and Mackinac—these contrasts come up before my mental vision, and I cannot realize that so much has been accomplished. It would not be safe to predict what Grand Rapids may be in fifty-three years more.

We all know that it must progress, because we have an enterprising, energetic people that never seem to know when to stop. As the Mayor has truly said, we have been in the main a fortunate city in our municipal affairs; we have a good equivalent for everything we have ever taxed out of the people. And now that they are going into this splendid home, I think and hope that there may be a continuation of that happy condition of things. In that room yonder [pointing to the Superior Court room] the blind Goddess of Justice will preside, and I think we may expect that to our people even-handed justice will there be administered: and I hope that the time may come when our judges shall not be compelled to dabble in the dirty pool of polities.

In that corner [pointing to the Council chamber] will preside the men that more immediately control our destiny. Under the charter they have the right to go down deep into our pockets. They are there this year, but it is not their fault. We were bound to have this splendid building, and we have obtained it, and this year we must pay the piper. We have reason to expect that the gentlemen who may occupy this room will be able after the current year to relieve us very materially from any further oppressive taxation. Our public necessities are largely filled; we are well supplied with school houses. Better bridges were never built, and our public buildings of all kinds, engine houses, school houses and this City Hall, are monuments to our enterprise and willingness to be taxed to have suitable accommodations. I will not detain you any longer.

Remarks of Ex-Mayor Thomas B. Church.

Mayor Weston said, I will now call upon our oldest living ex-Mayor, one of the pioneers of Grand Rapids, Hon. Thomas B. Church. Mr. Church said :

Permit me, Mr. Mayor, first of all, to straighten our historical record a little. I notice you designate our guest and speaker of this day, Hon. Charles L. Walker, as the first Treasurer of the village of Grand Rapids. If, in fact, he acted as Treasurer, it was by virtue of his office as a Trustee of the village. Examination shows he was a member of the first Board of Trustees, and is the only survivor of that Board. Then in 1840 he was elected to the State Legislature from the district, of which Kent county was a part. Thus he was, more especially the representative of this then village in 1841; the Legislature then sitting in Detroit. And thus he

figures most creditably in our annals, and is most appropriately summoned to lead the proceedings of this day.

I am called on as the oldest living ex-Mayor. The act incorporating the city of Grand Rapids was passed in the year 1849-50. Under it Henry R. Williams was elected Mayor in the spring of 1850; Ralph W. Cole in 1851, and William H. Withey in 1852. These gentlemen, according to the political nomenclature of that time, were Whigs. I was elected in April, 1853. When nominated and elected I was attending court in Detroit. There being then no telegraph, and the facilities for travel very poor, to notify me and get me home before the commencement of my term of office was impossible. The Council, consisting of five members, with which I was to act, adjourned its session twice. Doctor Charles Shephard and Noyes L. Avery are the only surviving members. I was called on for a message to be delivered to that Council, "just as was done over in Chicago," then an inconsiderable burg over the lake. Well, I agreed to do so, and read my address to my little Council. The transition from village to city had not been much noticed. No style had been put on; but the first message was an attempt, at least, to set up the little city. The address was ordered printed; different subjects therein discussed, referred to committees, and then the city and the world moved on as before.

The message this year, of our present Mayor, the last issued document of that kind, reminded me of the first one, and I hunted up a copy. Of the message of Mayor Weston, I wish to say, that it is a full and interesting statement of the present condition and prospects of our city. Its wonderful growth, its resources, its future development are exhibited statistically and reliably, so that as a public and authoritative document, the council should have furnished extra copies for circulation. It would promote our boom as much as "The Grand Rapids as It Is" of the Board of Trade, being very brief and handy to circulate.

The contrast between the years 1853 and 1888, in the matter of means of travel and transportation, possessed by this city, was so great, that I am induced to quote from my message a paragraph descriptive of our situation at the first date. I will premise by saying that the State of Michigan had become aware that Grand Rapids City existed, and was likely to be quite an important point. The removal of the Capitol from Detroit to Lansing in 1847, the erection of public buildings on that location in the timbered land, in 1849 and 1850, had opened the eyes of the people in the southern tiers of counties to the fact that there was some considerable country north of the counties and towns lying on the central and southern railroads, then in part constructed. I wrote somewhat complainingly of our remote position and its difficulties. "This city is fast becoming a point of interest; situated on a river, navigable by steamboats one hundred miles into the interior; surrounded by a fertile country (into which

population is rapidly flowing), controlling without competition the business of a district overswept by a radius forty miles in length, in nearly every direction; provided by the rapids of the river with a water power of immense capacity; and with lumber, building stone, lime, plaster and other materials of improvement, in due proportion, in inexhaustible quantities and of cheap preparation; this city possesses the elements of extensive growth and of permanent prosperity. That a section of country so rich as the Grand river valley, and a city combining so many advantages as Grand Rapids should have remained comparatively isolated and in many respects, entirely disengaged from any business connection with the commercial metropolis of our state, has been an adverse circumstance. It has depressed enterprise and delayed the development of our abundant resources."

Then I mentioned the most probable and approaching removal of our difficulties, the only way then promised of union with the outside world of business.

"We can congratulate ourselves and our constituency on a favorable change in these relations; the construction of the Pontiac and Ottawa Railroad, a work permeating a most productive tier of counties in this state, and conducting the travel of the north, west and east over the central railroads of Canada, New York and New England, places this city in a position worthy of the happy facilities to which I have adverted, brings it into an intimate alliance with Detroit and will in a few years firmly consolidate its interests and establish its character as the Rochester of Michigan, beyond the chances of retardation or relapse." I recommended, that with such encouragement, the Council should enter upon legislation adapted to our condition and sure prospects.

"Our legislation should be carried on in a spirit appreciative of our position and proficient of such future influences. The inevitable destiny of our city should be realized and provided for, and although our action may be embarrassed by the narrow means of this day, yet we should ever hold in view the large necessities of a time not far remote. Our legislation may impose consequences of great and continuing importance on a municipal incorporation, just hardening into the bone of manhood."

The council, thus urged, resolved much and effected some things. We tried first to establish dock lines, as they are technically called, to mark out and protect from invasions the bed of the river, upon which encroachment had already commenced and which has since gone on to an extent that will hereafter cause very calamitous effects. All the result of our work in that regard was a wharf at the foot of Pearl street, constructed by one of the Council, as contractor, Mr. Caswell, a part of which is probably now buried many feet under that street continued out to and over the adjacent island. We proposed a system of grades and lines of sewerage,

for all the plats then made and recorded, to which future additions must be adjusted, and this the more earnestly as we then had in the city an engineer of great skill and experience, John Aliny, who had done in 1834 a like work for the city of Detroit; "that splendid system of sewerage and street grades that has proved so beneficial to that city." Conflicting interests resisted that measure, and our city has gone on paying damages for changed grades, paying for opening streets, which speculators in city property should have been compelled to provide for in their plats; and there will not be very soon any end to the involved litigation and expense. Our big trouble, however, was the liquor business. The state laws of 1853 (a Maine law) compelled the city to appoint an agent, who must give a bond, and then be the only vendor of liquors for any purposes whatever. The Council appointed Dr. Charles Shepherd agent, ordered Alderman Caswell to purchase five hundred dollars' worth of liquors to put into his charge. The doctor soon tired of the business, and while we were worrying over the matter, down upon the council comes the imperative demand of Harvey P. Yale, a citizen of much influence, at that time, for the immediate destruction of our liquor stores as "adulterated liquor," under a section of the revised statutes of 1846, giving us in his communication the page and section under which we must act. It was a bomb shell cast at the Council. The records do not show what was done, nor do I recollect, only the fact that as a retailer of liquors, gin, brandy, whiskey and beer and ales, the city was not a success. That law of 1853 first fell into innocuous disuse, and was in 1855 repealed.

But this Council raised the money to pay off the old village indebtedness, a considerable sum, and bought for the city Mr. Louis Campan's reversionary interest in the north half of the Fulton street park (as it is now called), which purchase gave the city that possession of the court house square, which has ripened into full title to that beautiful lot. But I will detain you no longer with a detail of our proposed work or its failures. We had high notions perhaps, and aimed at impracticable ends. Our premature plans hurt nobody, and an agency was at work all the while rapidly producing the changes and improvements desired. That was the wonderful enterprise of those pioneers of this city, the business men. They were a most remarkable set of men, in their activity, their foresight, their liberality and their large public spirit. There was Henry R. Williams, coming from Buffalo, securing some money and co-operation in Detroit, then removing the twelve feet of superincumbent earth from the strata of gypsum, then erecting the mills and then preparing for the market of plaster in bulk and ground; Daniel Ball with credit at Buffalo and Rochester, building his flour mills and steamboats, and filling his large stores with the substantials of life; Charles C. Comstock, bearing the high endorsement of the Winchester Bank of New Hampshire, and at once, by

the multiplicity of his works, and the energy he put into them, justifying that endorsement. To Mr. Comstock must be allowed the honor of the introduction and placing on a safe business that particular industry, which has made our city a world wide reputation, the manufacturing of furniture.

Then I must mention, in view of their character and influence, Doctors Penney and Cumming, preachers of the gospel, learned and busy men, strong in their pulpits, and engaging in the business of the streets with sagacity and success. Their example was contagious; a high standard of action was thereby created, and I do not use too strong language when I say their residence and labors at that early date was a benediction to Grand Rapids.

I suggested to Dr. Penney, who had the matter in hand, the motto now to be read on our city seal, "Motu Viget" (By motion, by action, it grows.) Restless effort, constant action causes growth. The history of our city illustrates and justifies the selection of the phrase of the Latin author, so concise and expressive. May it ever characterize the city of Grand Rapids.

Remarks of Col. Thaddeus Foote.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I believe I belong to that class which Judge Walker describes as relics of antiquity, and I suppose for that reason I was assigned a place in these exercises.

The dedication of this magnificent building, fellow citizens, to public use, is an event of so much importance that all classes of our citizens, from the most exalted to the most humble, participate in the general joy. As one of the survivors of the past, whose interest in the steady growth and permanent improvement of this city increases with every new manifestation of a healthy and vigorous life, these exercises inspire me with a satisfaction that no figures of speech can express.

I am glad, very glad, that at last this imposing edifice is thoroughly completed, and that it is to take the place of those transitory apartments hitherto occupied for business by the officers of the city, which could hardly be found in the day time by a stranger, if he took the whole day, and perhaps not by night, even with a lighted candle. They are now in immediate proximity, and I hope the occupants of these comfortable quarters will find mutual convenience and advantage in being near each other, and at home to the public; whose generous provision will render it easy to be courteous and polite to all who have business here. With unmeasured admiration we welcome the accomplishment of an enterprise which crowns with success the golden hopes and the wise judgment of the

early settlers. They anticipated building a city here, and now look around you. With a just pride we set apart this day for rejoicing and mutual congratulation, and by so doing we intend to commemorate an epoch in the history of our city. This is a spacious, commodious and beautiful structure, suitable and appropriate in all its appointments, convenient in every arrangement, and as perfect, from the foundation to the topmost stone, as the skill of master workmen could make it. There are many lessons of instruction that it imparts, and which will acquire additional force with the vanishing years. I cannot attempt to enumerate them in the short time allotted to me. It denotes, however, confidence in the durability of the system of our city government and the prosperity of the institutions which that government cherishes and supports. It marks the increase of our population, and all that is implied by it: and the general prosperity of the people, which implies every blessing that the most advanced civilization can confer. It is situated in the heart of the city, and from it, I trust, will emanate a healthful life-blood of political integrity that will reach its remotest limits. In almost every city of our country, self-aggrandisement has supplanted, and, in some instances, totally eradicated the obligations of public duty, and peculation and jobbery have so prevailed as to have shaken the confidence of the masses in the general utility of municipal government. It affords me unbounded pleasure to speak the record of our entire history as a city—that there is no room to plant, and no congenial soul here in which the thorns and thistles of official misconduct can live and flourish. (Applause.)

In this particular, this city—ladies and gentlemen, I feel a pride in saying it—has no rival in the country. Did you ever hear of an embezzlement by any officer of this city of its funds? Never. In this particular, therefore, I say this city has no rival. The treasury of a city has come, in these prosperous and hurrying times, to be thought an object of legitimate, or at least venial plunder. Extravagance of expenditure is the rule. Economy of public expense is seldom made the object of supreme importance, and I wish, therefore, the true history of this structure, in every detail, might be engraved upon every stone of it (and you see how general this sentiment prevails, for not a man who sees me but has spoken the same thought, although without concert), so that coming generations might learn the character of men who build cities and who worthily wear the honors of public approbation. Knowing that, they will be able to realize, as we do to-day, how much more valuable is an irreproachable character than millions of sordid treasure. It was not expected, when it was incorporated, that this city would escape altogether the contagion that has reached almost every city of its size throughout the land, but in this respect we are able to say, without boasting, that ours is absolutely without spot or blemish. Every department of the city government is in

this matter entirely without stain. And in the department of our public works especially (and I say it without disparagement to any other) there has never been a suspicion in any healthy brain, that its business was not conducted with an eye solely for the public good: and in the erection of this edifice, public economy in every particular, consistent with durability, has been the guiding and controlling purpose of that body. But that body committed the detail of its construction chiefly to one of their number; and to him especially it is an enduring monument of official honor and integrity. Let it survive the ravages of time, and let it forever be associated with the vigorous good faith, unselfish fidelity and robust honesty of the late President of the Board, George W. Thayer. Permit me to relieve my mind of its burden, and speak the language of my heart and bring its tribute here: the homage of my admiration and gratitude, to the dignity and worth of a conscientious and honest man in the public service, now no longer there. (Applause.)

After a musical selection by the Schubert Club, the benediction was pronounced by the Right Rev. H. J. Richter, D. D., Bishop of Grand Rapids.

Letters of Regret.

Among the numerous letters of regret received by the Committee on Invitations were the following:

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON.

The President acknowledges the courtesy of the invitation to attend the formal opening and dedication of the City Hall at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on Wednesday, September 26, and regrets his inability to be present on that occasion.

Saturday, September 22, 1888.

—
PRESIDENT-ELECT HARRISON.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Nov. 23, 1888.

I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

My Dear Sir: Your invitation to be present at the dedication of the City Hall at Grand Rapids has remained unanswered until this time, because of the extraordinary demands upon my time since the date of its receipt. At this late day, however, permit me to acknowledge the courtesy extended me, and to regret that it did not receive a prompter acknowledgment.

Very truly yours,

BENJAMIN HARRISON.

CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER.

CHICAGO, September 27, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Grand Rapids.

My Dear Sir: I regret that absence in the East prevented me from accepting your courteous invitation to attend the exercises upon the dedication of the new City Hall at Grand Rapids, which I find upon my return. Such buildings, when erected, as in the instance of your thriving city, in response to the actual needs as well as the desires of the community, afford marked evidence of the growth of your municipalities and the progress of our people.

Yours truly,

M. W. FULLER.

—
SECRETARY BAYARD.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

WASHINGTON, September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Sir: I regret exceedingly that by reason of public duties at this

capital, I am not able to accept the invitation with which you have honored me, to be present at the dedicatory ceremonials of the City Hall of your thriving city.

Yours very respectfully,

T. F. BAYARD.

SECRETARY VILAS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

WASHINGTON, September 20, 1888.

The HONORABLE L. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dear Sir: I find myself unable, on account of official duties, to accept your invitation to attend the exercises in dedication of the new City Hall of Grand Rapids, to take place on the 26th instant; and must with regret decline the privilege of participating in a ceremony, which to your citizens must be peculiarly interesting and pleasant, and could not but be pleasing to me to enjoy.

Very respectfully,

WM. F. VILAS.

POSTMASTER GENERAL DICKINSON.

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 20, 1888.

HON. L. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

My Dear Sir: I have received your kind invitation to be present at the ceremony of dedicating the new City Hall of your city, and beg to thank you and through you the committee for the consideration.

The prolonged session of Congress has cut me off from the usual vacation, and my public duties will prevent my acceptance. I regret this very much, as I should be glad to be with you.

Very truly yours,

DON M. DICKINSON.

GOVERNOR LUCE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, MICHIGAN,

LANSING, September 24, 1888.

HON. L. M. WESTON, Grand Rapids, Mich.

My Dear Sir: The Governor and myself have been honored with an invitation to attend the formal opening and dedication of your City Hall on Wednesday, September 26, inst.

By direction of the Governor, and personally, allow me to express our

sincere appreciation of the same, and to further say that other duties will prevent an acceptance, much to our regret. Again thanking you for the kind recognition, I am

Very respectfully yours,

SHILOH CAMPBELL, Private Secretary.

—
PRESIDENT ANGELL.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

ANN ARBOR, September 21, 1888.

TO MAYOR WESTON, ALDERMAN SPROUL, EX-MAYOR HOUSEMAN,
and EX-MAYOR ANGELL.

Gentlemen: I beg to thank you for the invitation to be present at the opening and dedication of your City Hall. I regret that my official duties will detain me here.

In common with all the citizens of the state I rejoice in the abundant prosperity of your thriving city, and wish for it a yet more abundant prosperity in the future.

Yours very truly,

JAMES B. ANGELL.

—
CHIEF JUSTICE SHERWOOD OF THE SUPREME COURT.

KALAMAZOO, September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Grand Rapids.

My Dear Sir: Your kind invitation to be present at the dedication of your new City Hall, on the 26th inst., was duly received, and I regret to say my engagements here will prevent my accepting the compliment.

The character and magnificence of the public buildings now being erected throughout our state make their completion worthy of some suitable commemoration. I understand you have one of the best (and I know no other would satisfy your enterprising people) and I have no doubt the occasion of its dedication will be one of both interest and pleasure to all who participate, and I would greatly like to be with you to share in the pleasures and festivities of the evening. I thank you and your committee for extending to me the invitation.

Very truly yours,

T. R. SHERWOOD.

—
JUSTICE CAMPBELL OF THE SUPREME COURT.

DETROIT, September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor of Grand Rapids.

Please convey to the committee my acknowledgements for their kind-

ness in giving me an invitation to the dedication of your new City Hall. I am sorry that other engagements do not permit me to be present. Such an occasion is one of pride and congratulation. Your beautiful city is entitled to elegant quarters. It would be invidious to hope it will be long before you outgrow them. You are rather to be felicitated on making liberal provision for your surely safe future. Hoping the occasion will be of good omen and pleasant, I am

Very respectfully yours,

JAMES V. CAMPBELL.

JUSTICE MORSE OF THE SUPREME COURT.

IONIA, Mich., September 17, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir: I regret exceedingly that absence from the state will prevent my accepting your kind invitation to be present at the dedication of your new City Hall.

I first saw the city of Grand Rapids in 1845, as a boy, seven years old, entering the then small village upon a load of grain in my father's wagon. I have watched the growth of the town and its most wonderful development ever since with pride and pleasure. I am glad that the second city of the state is about to take possession by its officials of the magnificent and commodious building erected for the convenience of the official business of its people. As a citizen of the state, and especially of Ionia county, your near neighbor, I take peculiar pride in the advancement of your city and in the beauty of its public and other buildings. May the new City Hall stand for all time to come, and the property of Grand Rapids keep pace in the future with its progress in the past, is the wish and hope of

Yours truly,

ALLEN B. MORSE.

U. S. SENATOR PALMER.

SENATE CHAMBER.

WASHINGTON, September 24, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir: I have to regret that public duties must prevent my acceptance of your courteous invitation to attend the dedication of your new City Hall on the 26th instant. Thanking you for the courtesy extended, I am.

Very truly yours,

T. W. PALMER.

CONGRESSMAN FORD.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dear Sir: It is with much regret that I am forced, on account of absence from the city, to decline your kind invitation to be present at the ceremony attending the dedication of the new City Hall.

Truly yours,

M. H. FORD.

CONGRESSMAN FISHER.

WEST BAY CITY, Mich., September 21, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Chairman, Grand Rapids, Mich.

My Dear Sir: I received your kind invitation to be present on the 26th inst. at the dedication of your new City Hall. It would afford me great pleasure to be with you and your people on this very pleasant occasion. Your citizens are to be congratulated for their energy, thrift and enterprise. It speaks volumes for your industrial city and its inhabitants.

I regret that my business and political duties are such as will deprive me of being with you in person, but I will be in spirit. May your city continue to prosper and grow and become, as I believe she will, second to none in our fair state. Please extend to and through your committee to the good people of your city my sincere regrets for not being able to be with you, but wishing you abundant prosperity in the future, I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

S. O. FISHER.

CONGRESSMAN WHITING.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 22, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON.

My Dear Sir: Your kind invitation asking my presence at the dedication of your new City Hall is received.

I very much regret my inability to be present with you, for I feel certain that I shall miss a most enjoyable occasion.

The rapid growth of your most prosperous city is no doubt greatly due to the unusual enterprise of her business men. Your new hall is a guarantee of still greater advancement. All Michigan profits by the enterprise of Grand Rapids.

Very truly yours,

JUSTIN R. WHITING.

CONGRESSMAN BREWER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 24, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Chairman of Committee, etc.

My Dear Sir : I take pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your kind invitation to be present at the formal dedication of your City Hall on the 26th inst. I regret very much that former engagements prevent my being with you on the occasion mentioned. I rejoice with you at the splendid growth and the unsurpassed prosperity of your city. She is well worthy of the beautiful ornament which you are about to formally dedicate. I have the honor of remaining,

Very truly yours,

M. L. BREWER.

CONGRESSMAN ALLEN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 22, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir : I acknowledge with thanks the invitation to be present at the dedication of the new City Hall, and regret that my engagements will not allow me to be present.

All "Michiganders," and I am one, rejoice in the prosperity of your grand city, one of the crown jewels of our beloved state.

With highest respect, I remain yours,

EDWARD P. ALLEN.

STATE TREASURER MALTZ.

ALPENA, Michigan, September 22, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Chairman, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir : Your invitation to be present on the 26th inst. received. I regret that I cannot be with you at the formal opening and dedication of one of the finest public buildings in the state.

The city of Grand Rapids, with its public spirited citizens, its enterprise, and its increasing manufacturing industries, is the pride of Michigan.

Yours etc.,

GEORGE L. MALTZ.

ATTORNEY GENERAL TAGGART.

GRAND RAPIDS, September 24, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

My Dear Sir : The kind invitation to be present at the dedication

of our beautiful City Hall was duly received. I very much regret that owing to an engagement upon one of the boards at Lansing, upon the day named, I shall be compelled to be absent from the city. The City Hall is one of which our citizens, and particularly the city officials, who planned and carried into execution the construction of such a magnificent structure, may well be proud. Wishing yourself and all participating in the dedication the greatest success, I remain,

Very truly yours,

MOSES TAGGART.

COL. FARNSWORTH OF STATE MILITARY BOARD.

DETROIT, Mich., September 24, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Chairman Invitation Committee, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

My Dear Sir: It is with extreme regret that I am obliged, owing to business engagements, to forego the pleasure of being present at Grand Rapids on Wednesday, September 26, 1888, on the occasion of the dedication of your beautiful new city building, another evidence of the enterprise and progression of the second city of Michigan.

Thanking you and the gentlemen of your committee for your courteous invitation, I remain,

Very truly yours,

FRED E. FARNSWORTH.

JUDGE SEVERENS OF THE U. S. DISTRICT COURT.

UNITED STATES COURT. JUDGE'S ROOMS.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., September 24, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, and others of the Invitation Committee.

Dear Sirs: It would give me much pleasure, if other engagements did not prevent, to accept your invitation to be present at the opening of the Grand Rapids City Hall, an occasion of so much interest to the people of the city. I am, of course, familiar with the building and its surroundings, and you may be assured that I share in the just pride of your citizens in its magnificent proportions and its solid and enduring structure. It is worthy of the city and betokens its great and growing prosperity.

Accept my thanks for the invitation, and my hope that everything will concur in making the ceremonies pleasant and altogether satisfactory to your people.

Very respectfully yours,

H. F. SEVERENS.

U. S. SENATOR GORMAN.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor's Office, Grand Rapids, Mich.

My Dear Sir: I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your kind invitation to be present at the dedication of your City Hall on the 26th inst.

I regret very much that my engagements are such as to make it impossible for me to accept. It would have given me much pleasure to have been able to be present on that occasion, and to mingle with your people, who are pushing your city to the front in all that tends to the material and intellectual advancement of a people, and it would also have been an additional pleasure to be with you because of my high regard for you personally.

I am very truly yours,

A. P. GORMAN.

POSTMASTER PAUL OF MILWAUKEE.

UNITED STATES POSTOFFICE,
MILWAUKEE, Wis., September 22, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor of Grand Rapids.

My Dear Sir: I gratefully appreciate your kind invitation to be present at the formal dedication of your new and beautiful City Hall, and regret that my duties here will prevent my attendance. I remember well when your city scarcely possessed an existence, and its continuously rapid growth and increasing enterprise should be a just source of pride and congratulation to yourselves and to all the sister cities of the West.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE H. PAUL.

MAYOR HEWITT OF NEW YORK.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEW YORK, September 25, 1888.

I. M. WESTON, Esq., Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Sir: I feel very much honored by your invitation to attend the dedication of your City Hall on Wednesday of this week. Of course it will not be possible for me to be present on this interesting occasion, but I tender to you my sincere congratulations on the completion of a building so beautiful as this appears to be, if I can judge by the vignette at the head of the invitation, which you are kind enough to send me. I beg you to make my thankful acknowledgments to the committee, and to believe me,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAM S. HEWITT, Mayor.

MAYOR O'BRIEN OF BOSTON.

CITY OF BOSTON, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

September 19, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir: I thank you for your kind invitation to attend the ceremonies incident to the dedication of your new City Hall, and I regret exceedingly that my official duties prevent my absenting myself from this city on that interesting occasion.

Yours truly,

HUGH O'BRIEN, Mayor.

—
MAYOR ROCHE OF CHICAGO.

CITY OF CHICAGO, OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,

September 25, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON.

Dear Sir: I am instructed by Mayor Roche to acknowledge the receipt of the invitation to attend the dedication of the City Hall at Grand Rapids, the 26th inst., and directed to say that he regrets that his official duties preclude acceptance.

Very truly yours,

S. P. ENGLISH, Secretary.

—
MAYOR FRANCIS OF ST. LOUIS, MO.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, ST. LOUIS, September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your courteous invitation to attend the dedication services of your new City Hall on the 26th inst. I regret that my engagements in the interior of this state, of which I am making an active canvass as the Democratic nominee for governor, will prevent me from being present on the occasion you mention. I should be more than pleased to accept your invitation, as I have heard much of the beauty, thrift and hospitality of your progressive city. With my best wishes for your continued prosperity, I remain,

Yours with respect,

D. R. FRANCIS.

—
MAYOR SMITH OF CINCINNATI.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, CINCINNATI, September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir: Am in receipt of your communication inviting me to be

present at the dedication of your new City Hall on the 26th inst., and regret that other engagements will prevent my acceptance.

A similar occurrence took place in this city on the fourth of July last, and I have no doubt that both cities are proud of their new buildings.

Very respectfully,

AMOR SMITH, JR., Mayor.

MAYOR PRIDGEON OF DETROIT.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, DETROIT, Mich., September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor of Grand Rapids.

Dear Sir : Your favor inviting me to participate in the ceremony of dedicating your new City Hall is at hand. I regret very much that I cannot be present, but beg you to be assured that the occasion is one of considerable interest to me, and I might add, to all the people of Detroit, who have a patriotic pride in the steady advancement of Michigan's commercial and political importance. Such a magnificent structure as your people have erected is and should always remain a grand monument to the liberal local patriotism of Grand Rapids.

Yours truly,

JOHN PRIDGEON, JR.

MAYOR BAUM OF EAST SAGINAW.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, EAST SAGINAW, Mich., September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Chairman of Invitation Committee.

Dear Sir : Your kind invitation to attend the formal opening and dedication of your City Hall came duly to hand. I am sorry that owing to business arrangements made some time ago it will be impossible to attend. Last June I had the pleasure of spending a few pleasant days in your city, and I used the opportunity to take an exterior view of your new City Hall. I was impressed by the gracefulness of its design, and the solidity of its appearance. It is, indeed, a grand monument to the energy and public spirit of your citizens. And I have no doubt but its beauty and utility will prove a blessing in many ways not only to the present, but also to the future residents of Grand Rapids.

Very regrettfully yours,

WM. B. BAUM, Mayor.

MAYOR BLISS OF SAGINAW.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, SAGINAW, Mich., September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

My Dear Sir : I should be very much pleased to accept your kind invitation to be present at the dedication of your new City Hall on the 26th instant if my business and professional duties did not prevent. In

behalf of the city of Saginaw I send you hearty congratulations on the completion of your hall, and hope it may long stand as a monument to the citizens of the third city who are so ready to tax themselves for all necessary and needed improvements and to keep their city abreast of the times. Regretting that I cannot be with you, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

L. W. BLISS, Mayor.

MAYOR MARTIN OF WEST BAY CITY.

WEST BAY CITY, Michigan, September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Grand Rapids.

Dear Sir : I thank you for the very cordial invitation to be present in your city and take part in the opening and dedication of the City Hall, Wednesday, September 26, 1888, and take this opportunity to express my regrets that business matters of both a public and private nature make it necessary for me to decline the honor and pleasure of an acceptance.

Permit me also in this letter of thanks and regrets to congratulate you on the completion of so beautiful an edifice, realizing as I do that the enterprise and public spirit of a city may be easily read upon the walls of its public buildings.

Very truly yours,

W. J. MARTIN, Mayor.

MAYOR LOENNECKER OF JACKSON.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, JACKSON, Michigan, September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir : Your kind invitation to participate in the dedication of the new City Hall of your beautiful city has come to hand. I would have been much pleased to attend the ceremonies, but am sorry that through duties connected with our city affairs I am unable to attend.

Please accept my best wishes and greeting in behalf of Jackson to their prosperous sister city on this joyful occasion.

Respectfully yours,

MARTIN G. LOENNECKER, Mayor.

MAYOR TORRENT OF MUSKEGON.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, MUSKEGON, Michigan, September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Sir : I sincerely regret my inability to be present at the dedication of your City Hall, which is to take place on the 26th inst. Trusting that my absence will be no hindrance to the pleasurable event, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

JOHN TORRENT, Mayor.

MAYOR LITTLE OF KALAMAZOO.

KALAMAZOO, Michigan, September 24, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, and his associates of Invitation Committee,
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Gentlemen: I would most respectfully acknowledge the receipt of your cordial invitation to be present at the formal opening and dedication of your new City Hall, Grand Rapids, Wednesday, September 26, 1888.

I must regret that at the present writing appearances do not favor my being present upon that notable and interesting occasion. I desire however to send my most sincere greetings and hearty congratulations in view of so important and memorable an event in the history of your magnificent city.

Very respectfully,

FRANK LITTLE.

MAYOR CROTTY OF LANSING.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, LANSING, Michigan, September 24, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Chairman.

Dear Sir: I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your kind invitation to the dedicatory exercises of your new City Hall. Owing to an engagement previously made for that date, I shall not be able to avail myself of the privilege extended. Thanking you for the honor conferred, I am,

Very truly yours,

JOHN F. CROTTY.

MAYOR BLACKER OF MANISTEE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, MANISTEE, Mich., Sept. 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Grand Rapids, Mich.

My Dear Sir: I am sorry that pressing business East prevents my acceptance of your kind invitation to be present at the dedication of your new City Hall.

Yours truly,

R. R. BLACKER.

MAYOR CLARK OF MARQUETTE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, MARQUETTE, Michigan, September 24, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir: I regret very much that previous engagements prevent me from enjoying the pleasure of being with you at the dedication of your new City Hall, and that I cannot, with you and your invited guests, celebrate the rapid growth of your enterprising city, and especially the dedication of your magnificent City Hall, and become acquainted with more

of your citizens. The Upper Peninsula of Michigan, until within a few years past, has been so isolated from the Lower Peninsula, that we have seemed to have but little in common with her interests. But this has entirely changed. We are now united by iron bands, which are stimulating traffic and commerce by the way of the Straits of Mackinac, and those Straits have been practically bridged by the combination of great mechanical and nautical skill in the building of the steamer St. Ignace, and though we are still two peninsulas in fact, we are fast becoming one in community of interests. I wish you great success in the administration of your city government, and your city a continuation of its wonderful development.

Yours truly,

F. O. CLARK.

MAYOR WAGAR OF IONIA.

IONIA, Michigan, September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir: Important business engagements will prevent my being present at the dedication of your new City Hall. Accept my thanks for the invitation and my regrets that I cannot be present at so important an event. Hoping you may have fine weather and an enjoyable time, I remain,

Yours truly,

H. R. WAGAR.

MAYOR FRINK OF MARSHALL.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, MARSHALL, Mich., September 24, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor.

My Dear Sir: I return my cordial thanks for your kind invitation to attend the opening and dedication of the City Hall at Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 26, and regret that I cannot be present on that occasion.

Yours respectfully,

NORRIS J. FRINK, Mayor.

MAYOR KIRBY OF GRAND HAVEN.

GRAND HAVEN, Michigan, September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir: Your letter of invitation to attend the dedication of the new City Hall is received--thanks. I regret very much that I cannot attend, as business of importance calls me from home for several weeks.

Yours truly,

T. W. KIRBY, Mayor.

MAYOR GALBRAITH OF PONTIAC.

HON. I. M. WESTON.

The Mayor of Pontiac sends greetings and compliments to the Mayor of the city of Grand Rapids, and regrets that it will not be possible to be present at the dedication of your City Hall on the 26th inst.

Yours respectfully,

F. B. GALBRAITH.

COMMISSIONER CROKER OF NEW YORK.

OFFICE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS,

NEW YORK, September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor.

Dear Sir: Your very kind invitation to be present at the dedication of your new City Hall to hand. I would be pleased to be present, but a previous engagement prevents my attendance.

I am, very respectfully,

RICHARD CROKER.

EX-GOVERNOR ALGER OF DETROIT.

DETROIT, Michigan, September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

My Dear Sir: I have received your kind invitation to be present at the dedication of your new City Hall on the 26th inst., and regret exceedingly that other engagements will prevent me from being with you. As Grand Rapids was my old home, I am always very much interested in everything that pertains to its prosperity.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. ALGER.

EX-CONGRESSMAN FIELD OF DETROIT.

DETROIT, Michigan, September 21, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Str: I am in receipt of your kind invitation to attend the formal opening of your new City Hall on Wednesday, September 26, and regret exceedingly that previous engagements will prevent my acceptance. Thanking you for the remembrance, I remain,

Very truly yours,

MOSES W. FIELD.

EX-CONGRESSMAN WEBBER.

IONIA, Michigan, September 19, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Sir: Your very kind invitation to attend the formal opening and dedication of your City Hall duly received, for which please accept my thanks. I leave this evening for New York. Should I return in time to meet with you on the very pleasant occasion, it would give me great pleasure. I congratulate you and your people on the success of your beautiful building, and remain,

Respectfully,

GEORGE W. WEBBER.

EX-MAYOR CHAMBERLAIN OF DETROIT.

DETROIT, Michigan, September 22, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Chairman Committee on Invitation, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of the invitation to visit your city on the 26th of this month, and take part in the ceremonies of dedicating your new City Hall. I regret very much that a prior engagement will prevent my being present. I have been familiar with your city and many of your prominent business men for the past twenty-five years, and have watched with interest the growth and prosperity of Grand Rapids, which have been most phenomenal, and are a proud monument to the intelligence and energy of the citizens of your city and our commonwealth. I congratulate your citizens upon the fine and commodious structure which they have erected for the transaction of their municipal business. Thanking you for your very kind invitation, and again expressing my regrets at not being able to be with you, I remain,

Yours very respectfully,

M. H. CHAMBERLAIN.

EX-MAYOR WEADOCK OF BAY CITY.

BAY CITY, Michigan, September 21, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Alderman ROBERT SPROUL, Ex-Mayors HOUSEMAN and ANGELL, Committee, etc.

Gentlemen: Your courteous invitation to attend the ceremonies on the opening of your elegant new City Hall is received. Thanking you for the favor, I regret to say that an engagement at Detroit will deprive me of the pleasure of being with you that day. Wishing your city continuing and increasing prosperity, I am,

Yours Respectfully,

T. A. E. WEADOCK.

EX-MAYOR WAGNER OF MARSHALL.

MARSHALL, Michigan, October 3, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON and other Committeemen, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Gentlemen: Upon my return home after an absence of ten days, I find your invitation requesting my presence at the formal opening of the City Hall of your city, on the 26th ultimo.

I sincerely regret that I did not receive your invitation in time. Had I done so it would have given me great pleasure to have accepted the same.

Yours very truly,

M. V. WAGNER.

EX-MAYOR BENNETT OF JACKSON.

JACKSON, Michigan, September 24, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON and others, City of Grand Rapids.

Gentlemen: I have received your cordial invitation to be present at the formal opening of the City Hall, and present my compliments and regrets that pressing business duties will detain me at home.

In the marvelous growth of our land, which marks so clearly the progress and advancing civilization of a free people, no single example stands out more defined than is shown in the history of the city of Grand Rapids, and as a citizen of Michigan and an admirer of business progress and energetic concentration of purpose, I am proud of her success, and will hail with satisfaction the early day when her Mayor will rule over the destinies of an hundred thousand people, I am,

Yours truly,

CLARENCE H. BENNETT.

EX-CITY ATTORNEY McGEE OF MARSHALL.

MARSHALL, Michigan, September 19, 1888.

Mayor I. M. WESTON, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir: Your invitation to attend the dedicatory ceremonies of your new City Hall, received. I regret very much to say, that owing to circumstances over which I have no control, it will be impossible for me to be present.

Truly yours,

WM. J. McGEE.

CHAIRMAN BRICE OF NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, N. Y., September 20, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Sir: Your kind invitation to be present at the dedication of the new

City Hall in Grand Rapids on the 26th inst., has reached me at a time when overwhelmed with business, public and private.

I have been contemplating a visit to Michigan since July 1st, but now that the political campaign has begun, will have to postpone it, and send you my regrets at not being able to be present at the dedication.

Very truly yours,

CALVIN S. BRICE.

W. E. QUIMBY OF DETROIT FREE PRESS.

DETROIT, Michigan, September 25, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Sir: Other engagements prevent my accepting your kind invitation to be present at the dedication of your City Hall. I congratulate you and the citizens of your beautiful city on its completion, and wish I could be there to personally extend my felicitation to the energetic people of Grand Rapids.

Very truly.

W. E. QUIMBY.

GEN. HERMANN LIEB, OF CHICAGO.

CHICAGO, September 23, 1888.

HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Sir: The invitation of yourself and committee to attend the opening of the City Hall at Grand Rapids has been received. Owing to an engagement on the 26th of September, I shall not be able to attend. Please accept my thanks for the courtesy.

Yours Respectfully,

HERMANN LIEB.

THOS. C. CLARK, OF MUSKEGON.

MUSKEGON, Michigan, September 24, 1888.

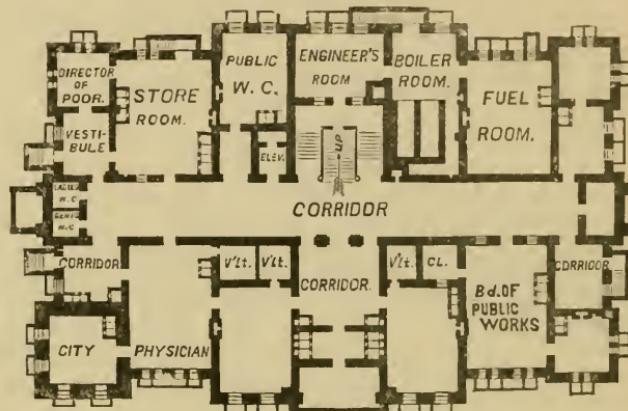
HON. I. M. WESTON, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your invitation to attend the exercises of dedication of your new City Hall, on the 26th inst. I doubt very much being able to be present, but, whether I am or not, I want to thank you very heartily for your thoughtful invitation.

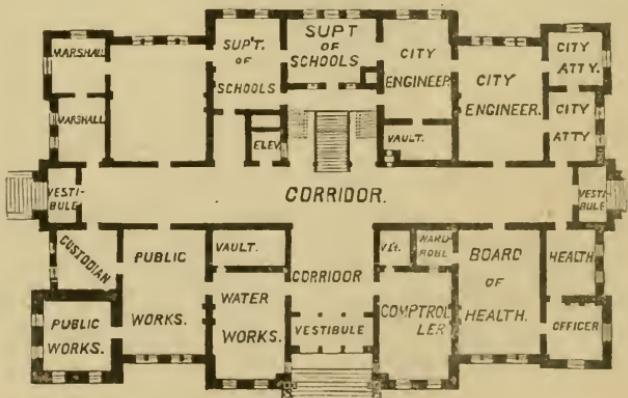
Truly yours,

THOS. C. CLARK.

New City Hall Floor Diagrams.

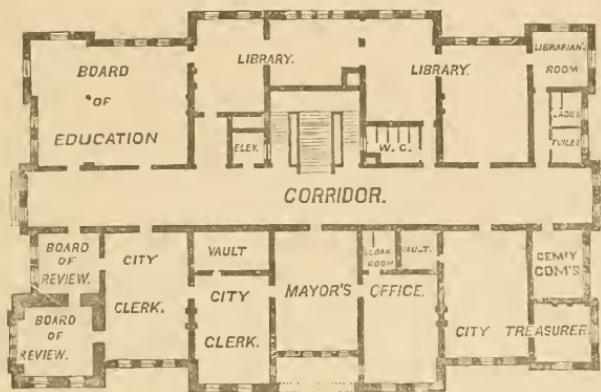


BASEMENT.

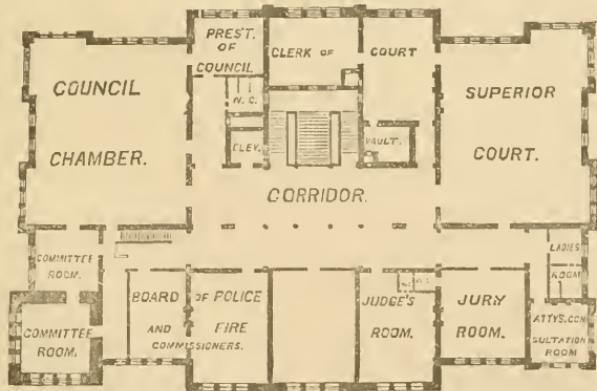


FIRST FLOOR.

New City Hall Floor Diagrams.



SECOND FLOOR.



THIRD FLOOR.

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